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Comics INTERNATIONAL

Issue 42 May 1994 | The Comics Industry Monthly | 88 pages 50p / $1.25

Computer game giant pitches for top indie comic publisher

$65 million bid to buy Valiant

VALIANT was launched in New York City in 1990 as a comic book imprint for a newly formed company, Voyager Communications, brainchild of Marvel Comics' ex-editor in chief Jim Shooter. With 16 monthly titles, it now claims third place in North American comics publishing – behind corporate-owned Marvel and DC -- and is the target for a $65 million cash and/or stock takeover by Acclaim Entertainment Inc.

Acclaim, headquartered in Oyster Bay, New York, began operating in 1987 and was the country's first company to market and distribute Nintendo software under license. Its annual turnover has risen each year from an initial $925,000 to last year's $327.1 million.

Working with Philips Electronic subsidiary Polygram, Acclaim established a UK base in 1990 and also has offices in Spain, Germany, Canada, France and Japan.

The company's key properties in the video and computer game industry include *RoboCop 3, The Addams Family, The Simpsons, Back to the Future, Populous, Terminator 2* and its current top seller, *Mortal Kombat*. In addition, Acclaim has an extensive range of sports games licensed from the National Football League, the World Wrestling Federation and the National Basketball Association.

The acquisition is welcomed by Valiant, though marketing vice-president Marty Stever did explain that as Acclaim is a publicly-held company there will automatically be a delay while the takeover is examined with regard to anti-trust laws, the US equivalent of the Monopolies & Mergers Commission. "They'll put people through hoops, but not difficult ones," he added.

Speaking from experience[1], Acclaim president Robert Holmes said of the intended purchase: "Valiant Comics is an exciting acquision not only as a profitable stand-alone business, but also because the potential synergies that exist between comic books and interactive entertainment are vast."

[1]*Acclaim acquired the rights to* ***Spider-Man*** *in 1990, though its greatest success,* ***Mortal Kombat****, is soon to be released as a comic book by Valiant's competitor Malibu.*

STOP PRESS

Following the Zero Hour mini-series and crossovers to revitalise its main-stream line of comics and simplify continuity, the majority of DC's super-hero titles will have their current issue numbering abandoned and will restart from first issues.

After an extended absence, Image's first title returns in the 48-page $3.50 ***Youngblood #6*** *(team member Rok pictured above). By Image co-founder Rob Liefeld and Danny Miki, it is planned to ship on June 23rd.*

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A Quality Communications magazine

nEWS ·AMERICA·

X-Men titles intro Generation X

WITH plans for a further mutant-hero title, Marvel Comics is preparing a multi-level crossover in its X-Men family of titles through July and August to set the scene for the September launching **Generation X**.

Beginning with a four-part *Generation Next* serial in **Uncanny X-Men** #316 and 317 and **X-Men** #36 and 37, the two teams are kidnapped by Phalanx, the latest X-Men villain, and it is left to Banshee, Jubilee, Sabretooth and Emma Frost - the White Queen - to recruit a new team of X-Men to rescue them. But it is a race against time as Phalanx have targeted all young new mutants for extermination.

The **Uncanny X-Men** episodes are produced by regular writer Scott Lobdell, with art from new regular Joe Madureira. **X-Men** episodes are by the usual team of Fabian Nicieza and Andy Kubert.

The *Generation Next* serial continues as, discovering that the two X-Men teams have been kidnapped, X-Factor leader Forge contacts **X-Force** and **Excalibur**. Together, these three groups attempt to unlock the secrets of Phalanx and discover that two dead New Mutant characters are key to the success of the villain.

Doug Ramsey and Warlock are merged after being resurrected by Phalanx to become the techno-organic monster, Doug-lok. But the amalgamated former heroes form an uneasy alliance with the three teams as Forge is seduced by the growing power of Phalanx.

This three-part segment of *Generation Next* is subtitled *Life Signs* and features in 48 page stories in July's **X-Factor** #106 by newcomer Todd DeZango plus artists Jan Duursema and Al Milgrom; also in July's **X-Force** #38 by the regular team of Nicieza and Tony Daniel and in the August shipping **Excalibur** #82 by Scott Lobdell and Ken Lashley.

Concluding the triptych crossover is *Final Sanction*, two

48 page stories in the July shipping **Wolverine** #85 and August's **Cable** #16.

With the X-Men missing and the three other X-teams fighting to gain the upper hand over Phalanx, oldsters Wolverine, Cable, Cyclops and Jean Grey team-up in a covert operation to try and free the X-Men while also facing Phalanx. Cable's techno-organic history and the knowledge gained by Cyclops and Jean during the four issue **Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix** are the team's only hopes of defeating Phalanx.

Wolverine #85 is by the regular team of Larry Hama and Adam Kubert, while the creators on **Cable** #16 have yet to be announced. Both 48 page editions will retail for $3.50.

The conclusion of the *Generation Next* story arcs will set the scenes for **Generation X**, a new ongoing series featuring a new team of mutants.

Working out of the Massachusetts Academy, former home of the ex-New Mutants villains the Hellions, the team will be under the guidance of Sean Cassidy — the Banshee — and Emma Frost, the former villainous headmistress of the Hellions.

The series will introduce the new mutants, M from Monaco, Mondo from Samoa, Chamber from England, Skin from Mexico and Synch from the USA, who will join Jubilee and Cannonball's mutant sister, Husk, in a 48 page issue written by Scott Lobdell with art from Vertigo's Chris (**Shade**) Bachallo.

Also featuring mutant stars, the latest in the series of **Marvel Limited** editions is **The X-Men's Greatest Battles**. It contains eight stories spanning the team's first encounter with Magneto, through the Jim Steranko and Neal Adams late '60s period of X-Men history and ending with a Chris Claremont and Jim Lee story from the early 1990s.

The August shipping hardcover book will retail for around £40 but, in conjunction with distributors, is only being made available to retailers who accounts are "in good standing".

New readers: begin here

***Comics International** is a monthly industry newspaper devoted to the comics medium. As such, it provides details of forthcoming UK and US comics and related items, together with reviews and commentary on current titles.*

Certain products mentioned are not available through regular news agent outlets, but only from the 'direct sale' comics specialist retailers and mail order companies. Details of specialist outlets are advertised throughout the magazine, and a listing of the major specialists in Britain is given in our Retail Index and Mail Order Index sections.

***Shipping dates** mentioned for North American titles are the dates copies leave their printers to be air-freighted to distributors for direct sale outlets approximately one week later. These dates and titles do not relate to on sale dates or titles for news agent copies.*

The Marvel and DC titles on general national distribution are on sale in the UK approximately two to three months after the air-freighted copies can be bought through specialist shops and mail order companies dealing with 'advance imports'. Because of the additional shipping costs incurred, these advance copies will be sold at a higher price than the UK price printed on their covers.

***American dollar prices** are listed for US titles with most UK comic shops converting at the rate of 80p = $1.*

Most reputable mail order dealers bear a CoBRA seal on their advertisements. For full details concerning advertisers displaying this Mail Order Protection seal, see page 86.

DC redefines superhero universe in Zero Hour, a Crisis in Time

IN THE biggest shake-up of its superhero titles since the groundbreaking 1986 maxi-series **Crisis on Infinite Earths**, DC Comics has begun its build-up to the potential sequel, **Zero Hour: Crisis in Time**.

The series is designed as a five issue weekly mini-series which counts down from issue #4 through #3, #2, #1 and ends with #0. But unless #4's cover is clearly bannered as being the first issue, UK retailers report that they risk losing potential readers by its reverse numbering leading collectors to believe they have missed the first three issues.

Mainstream crossovers

In addition to the mini-series, the storyline also overlaps into every DC universe title from June through to August 9th's **Zero Hour: Crisis in Time #0**. All five issues are written and drawn by Dan Jurgens with inks from the man behind the revival of **Shazam**, Jerry Ordway.

Ultimately, the DC universe will change to smooth out any lapses in continuity and simplify the various futures currently being dramatised.

The **Zero Hour** storyline will culminate with DC universe titles in October foregoing their regular numbering for one issue and being numbered as issue zeros, to encourage new readers and collectors. Also all current storylines in all titles will conclude immediately prior to the end of **Zero Hour**, providing a perfect launch platform for the streamlined DC universe.

Zero Hour: the plot

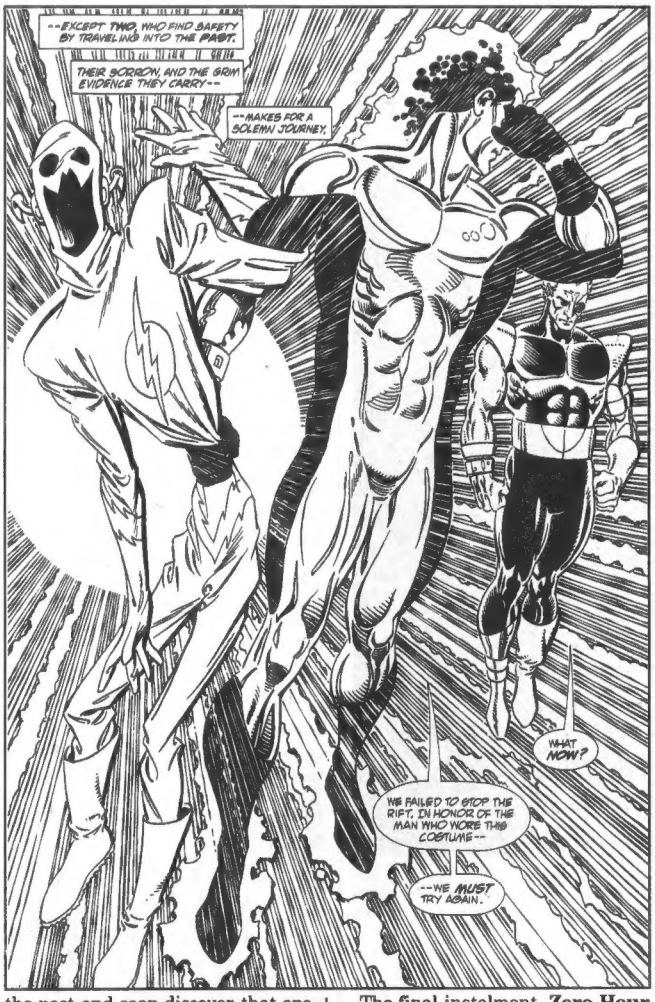
The story tells how DC's greatest superheroes of the 20th century discover a tidal wave of temporal distortion and band together to prevent time collapsing in on itself. 1,000 years in the future, other heroes face even greater havoc as villains from the 20th and 30th centuries unite to take advantage of time's disruption.

The first **Zero Hour** instalment (issue #4) sees anomolies appearing throughout the universe. A healthy Batgirl reappears — a Batgirl to whom the injury inflicted by the Joker in **Batman: A Killing Joke** never took place. Multiple contradictory incarnations of Hawkman suddenly appear across the planet. Only Waverider (from the 1991 series **Armageddon 2001**) and Metron (of the Jack Kirby created **New Gods**) suspect what the far reaching ramifications of these appearances are.

The second instalment, **Zero Hour** #3, features the death of a Flash, but due to the temporal chaos that has been caused, which Flash dies has yet to be announced, but the inclusion of the Justice Society of America indicates that Jay Garrick could be soon joining Barry Allen in comics heaven.

Surprising truths about long-time DC villain the Time Trapper and the time misplaced hero Waverider are revealed, and the one true Hawkman is introduced into the DC universe.

The third part of **Zero Hour** in #2 sees the DC superheroes splitting into teams to find the cause of the time disruption. Some travel to the 30th century, while others go into the past and soon discover that one established superteam had been mere pawns of the mysterious time-villain Extant, key to the entire mini-series. Links are also made to the **Armageddon 2001** series as DC make hints that Extant is linked (the same person?) as the time spanning Monarch, who was a future version of The Hawk.


--EXCEPT TWO, WHO FIND SAFETY BY TRAVELING INTO THE PAST.
THEIR SORROW, AND THE GRIM EVIDENCE THEY CARRY--
--MAKES FOR A SOLEMN JOURNEY.
WHAT NOW?
WE FAILED TO STOP THE RIFT, IN HONOR OF THE MAN WHO WORE THIS COSTUME--
--WE MUST TRY AGAIN.

The fourth issue, **Zero Hour** #1, sees the destruction of the future of the DC universe. The Legion of Super-Heroes 30th century disappears as does Booster Gold's 25th century.

The story provides a major turning point in the lives of Ray (The Atom) Palmer and Power Girl (who gives birth to her child) while the DC heroes struggle in vain to prevent the destruction of what remains of their universe.

The final instalment, **Zero Hour #0**, introduces a new DC universe, one with only a single history and with many familiar faces missing. But this new world still has one final **Zero Hour** battle as, **Crisis**-like, the Spectre is the only being powerful enough to take on Extant in single combat.

Crossovers

The **Zero Hour** tie-ins begin with the following titles:

Shipping July 12th: **Batman** 511, **Legionaires** 18, **Flash** 94, **Superboy** 8, **Superman Man of Steel** 37, **Valor** 23.

Shipping July 19th: **Batman: Shadow of the Bat** 31, **Green Lantern** 55, **Hawkman** 13, **Justice League America** 92, **Superman** 93.

Shipping July 26: **Adventures of Superman** 516, **Detective Comics** 678, **Justice League Task Force** 16, **LEGION '94** 70 (final), **Steel** 8 **Outsiders** 11 and **Team Titans** 24 (final)

Shipping August 2nd: **Action Comics** 703, **Anima** 7, **Catwoman** 14, **The Darkstars** 24, **Green Arrow** 90, **Guy Gardner** 24, **Justice League International** 68, **Legion of Super-Heroes** 61, **Robin** 10, **Showcase '94** #10.

Key issues and new launches

There are **Zero Hour** tie-ins planned for preceding months to the main story, most notably the prelude to **Zero Hour** in **Showcase '94** #7-8 and the build-up in current **Valor** and **Legionnaires** issues.

Also, a result of the **Zero Hour: Crisis in Time** crossover, five new series are being launched: **Manhunter**; **R.E.B.E.L.S. '94** (replacing **L.E.G.I.O.N. '94**); **Primal Force**; **Fate** and **Starman**.

Established characters and titles are to be dramatically changed, among them such stalwarts as **Hawkman** and **Green Lantern** and the foundations are being laid for drastic changes in titles such as **The Darkstars**, **Flash** and **Wonder Woman** and the rumour that **The New Titans** is to be replaced by a new comic simply titled **Titans** has been hinted at.

Justice League International and **Valor** are also to be cancelled while futuristic titles **Legion of Super-Heroes** and **Legionnaires**, will be greatly affected.

DC is supplying retailers with the **Zero Hour/Zero Month** Media Box, which will ship on the same date as **Zero Hour #0**. The media package includes a PAL (UK) format video with interviews, art and information.

The pack also includes a free 16 page **Zero Month** preview entitled, **The Beginning of Tomorrow**; a black and white ashcan of **Zero Hour 0**; checklists; giveaway pins and a four colour window display sign. DC is also supporting the series with 1,300 fifteen second radio advertisements, to be syndicated across the United States.

All five issues of **Zero Hour** will cost $1.50 each and ship on a weekly basis from July 12th to August 9th.

*Above: Will Simpson's character sketch of **Vamps**, a July-launching $1.95 DC series from Vertigo written by Elaine (**Starstruck**) Lee. Since Will's early days at **Warrior**, he has invariably produced pencil art only. But on the strength of this sample illustration, Will got the **Vamps** assignment... inking his own pencils!*

Kaluta to adapt the Shadow

MICHAEL Wm. Kaluta continues his 20 year relationship with a character far older than **Batman** or **Superman** through the release of the 2-part adaptation of Universal's new movie **The Shadow**.

Written and drawn by Kaluta, the first issue ships on June 14th and retails for $2.50.

To coincide with the film and the comic, Graphitti Designs is producing a Shadow bust sculpted by Randy Bowen and based on designs by Mike Kaluta. The bust will be a 2500 limited edition and ships on June 14th, priced $145.00.

First heard on radio in 1929, The Shadow quickly moved into the world of pulp fiction in 1931 and followed with his first comicbook adventure in March 1940 in Street & Smith's **Shadow Comics**. The title ran for nine volumes, a total of 101 issues, before cancellation in 1949.

Archie Comics revived the character in 1964, but made no attempt to follow the Orsen Welles voiced mystery man, prefering a green and blue superhero suit. The title folded after eight issues.

DC returned him to his pulp roots in 1973 under the initial direction of Dennis O'Neil and a young Mike Kaluta (#1-6 only). The series also spotlighted the talents of Bernie Wrightson, Howard Chaykin and E R Cruz, but poor sales led to cancellation after 12 issues.

Kaluta returned to the character at Marvel Comics, with the release of a graphic novel **The Shadow: Hitler's Astrologer**.

DC next revamped the hero in a 1985 4-issue adult mini-series by Howard Chaykin, leading into a whacky 19-issue run by Andy Helfer and Bill Sienkiewicz (replaced from issue 8 by Kyle Baker). Considered *too* whacky by copyright owners Street & Smith, it was replaced by Gerard Jones & Eduardo Baretta's more traditional 31-issue **The Shadow Strikes!**, ending in 1992.

Dark Horse Comics recently brought the character back to prominence with Kaluta's four issue mini-series **The Shadow: In the Coils of the Leviathan** which concluded in March.

Firearm video for UK release

BRITISH Ultraverse fans will be pleased to here that the video and comic of **Firearm #0** will soon be available in the UK PAL format.

The 35 minute intro to the ongoing comicbook features James Courtney as the British PI Alec Swan, aka Firearm, on the trail of Duet, a demon-possessed "ultra".

Malibu's Dave Olbrich, Jeff (**Solitaire**) Johnson and Stephen (**Hardcase**) Jones all appear in cameo roles in the Darren Doane directed video which in mood, camera-work and pacing is far superior to many US TV actioners, but still retains a comics feel.

Like all good TV pilots, the video introduces the main protagonists but ends on a cliffhanger. with the story continuing in the main series. But in this case, the main series is a comic, with **Firearm #0** resolving the video's main plotline.

James Robinson supplies the suitably quirky story for both the video and the comic, while Mike (**Flash**) Weirango and Rob Haynes provide artwork on **Firearm #0**.

The video is released in three versions: 46% of the tapes will be black, 46% will be blood red while 8% will be gold. Mounted as a set the tape and comic retail for $14.95.

Solo action from Marvel

MARVEL is launching two new mini series in August. The first, from the **New Warriors** family of titles, is a solo series for telekinetic-powered member in **Justice: Four Balance** by Fabian (**X-Men**) Nicieza and Craig (**Illuminator**) Brasfield. It features the hero, Vance Astrovich, formerly known as Marvel Boy, in pursuit of the killer of a wealthy industrialist's young daughter.

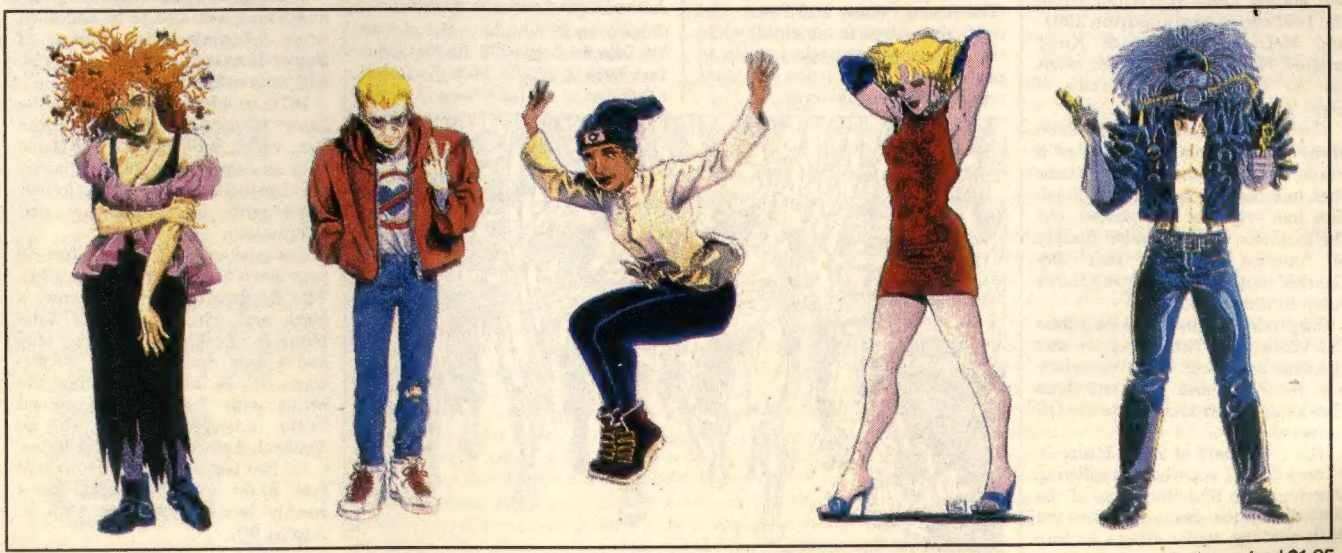
The series also examines the links between child abuse and child abusers as Justice, who killed his own father after years of mental and physical abuse, discovers that he is more likely to abuse his own children because of his past.

This four-issue mini-series debuts in July and retails for $1.50.

● Spider-Man supporting character and mercenary Solo is to get his own $1.75 four-issue series with the first issue shipping on 5th July.

Called simply **Solo**, the series is written by former **Punisher** editor and Spider-Man fill-in writer Eric Fein, with art by Ron (**Dragonlance**) Randall. The first issue features the anti-hero Solo in a worldwide pursuit of the deadly A.R.E.S organisation, attempting to clear his name and uncover information about the organisation. The series guest stars Spider-Man.

Solo was first introduced during the popular David Michelinie and Todd McFarlane serial *The Assassination Nation* in **Amazing Spider-Man #321-326**.



*Above: Jill Thompson's preliminary character sketches for the new Grant Morrison series, **The Invisibles**. The first issue debuts in July from Vertigo, priced $1.95.*

Martha's back

FRANK Miller and Dave Gibbons return to the second American Civil War as their 1991 Eisner award winning heroine reappears in **Martha Washington Goes to War.**

Launching in May, this $2.95 priced 32 page five-issue mini-series from Dark Horse's Legend imprint is set in 2014 and features Martha leading the battle against the Fat Boy Burgers Corporation.

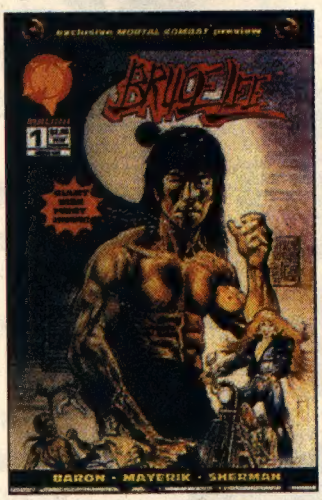
● The creator-controlled Legend imprint distributed by Dark Horse Comics has added an eighth member to its core of writers and artists.

Michael Allred, creator of **Madman**, has been invited to join original members John Byrne, Mike Mignola, Dave Gibbons, Art Adams, Paul Chadwick, Geof Darrow and Frank Miller.

Allred's career began in 1989 with **Dead Air** from Slave Labor Graphics. He followed this with **Creatures from the Id** and **Graphique Musique** for Caliber.

Suitably impressed by joining the Legend crew, Allred commented "They also offer a good dental plan."

Four new from Malibu

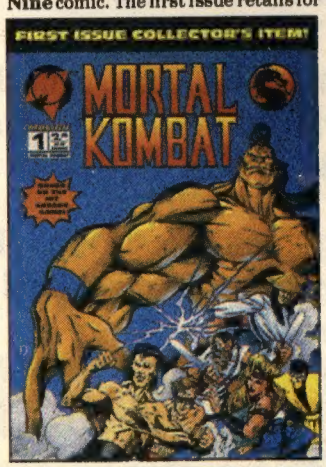


FOLLOWING the success of their **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** comic series, Malibu is releasing a four-issue spin-off, **Deep Space Nine: Hearts and Minds.**

The series is written by Mark Altman, a **Cinefantastique** and **Starlog** contributor regarded as an authority on *Star Trek* films, TV and comics. Art is by Rob Davis and Terry Pallot, who have both worked on the ongoing Malibu **Deep Space Nine** comic. The first issue retails for $2.50 and ships in June. Much to the consternation of retailers, a $14.95 variant with an all-holographic cover ships two months later in August.

● Also new from Malibu are two ongoing titles shipping in July: **Mortal Combat** based on the Acclaim computer game, and Mike Baron and Val Mayerik's **Bruce Lee** which tells the story of the famed martial artist.

● **Edge**, from Bravura, launches in August by Steve Grant and Gil Kane.



IN BRIEF

Marvels hardback

THE critically acclaimed mini-series **Marvels** has been collected in a deluxe hardcover book with a new wraparound slip-case by series artist Alex Ross.

The limited edition book will also include the May scheduled **Marvels #0** and an introductory preface by series writer Kurt Busiek.

The strictly limited 2,500 signed and numbered edition will ship on 26th July and retails for $59.95. Graphitti Designs who are packaging the book has warned that the book will be allocated if demand outweighs the pre-set print run.

Smith's X-reunion

FORMER fan-favourite **X-Men** artist, Paul (**Golden Age**) Smith is the artist on **X-Men Unlimited #6**, a 64 page glossy title featuring Cyclops, Jean Grey, Polaris and Havok on vacation in the Savage Land. Shipping 27th July, the story is written by **X-Men 2099's** John Francis Moore and retails for $3.95.

Top Cover awards

MAGAZINE and Bookseller, an American publishing trade magazine announced its awards for 1993's top three comic book covers.

Marvel won the first two places with the prismatic **Warlock Chronicles #1** and **Barbie 25**, while DC came in third with the newsstand version of **Superman #75**, the famous death issue.

Ominous beginnings

FORMER **Justice League Europe** and **X-O Manowar** artist Bart Sears has announced the creation of his own company, Ominous Press.

The first three projects from the new publisher will naturally feature Sears' creations **Brute and Babe**, adapted from his monthly art instruction column in **Wizard.**

The second release will be the 32 page **The Death of Pheros**, featuring the character Sears created for the Creators Universe trading card set.

The third book, **Omen**, will be a 40 page premium comic and all three titles will ship in July.

A busy man, Sears is also set to take over art on Marvel's **Silver Surfer** from issue 93.

Bone-a-fide cards

JEFF Smith's critically acclaimed comic series **Bone** and its supporting characters are featured in a 100 card trading card set from Comic Images, due to ship late May.

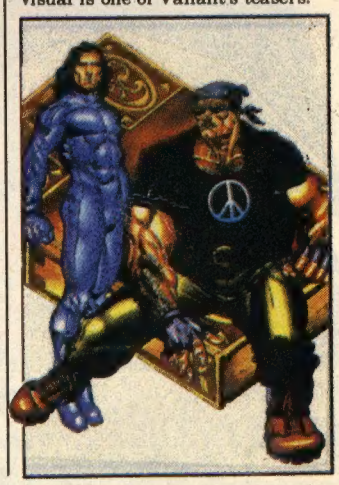
The cards, featuring the characters Bone, Phoney Bone, Smiley Bone, Thorn, Grandma, the Great Red Dragon and the Possum family, will retail for $24.75 per box.

Inserted in the boxes randomly will be a limited edition medallion card, six special chase cards, a rare three-card subset, autographed cards and a mini press sheet.

Geomancer for July

FOLLOWING this summer's crossover series **The Chaos Effect**, and the impending death of Geoff the geomancer, Valiant is launching **Geomancer 1** by Maurice (**Harbinger**) Fontenot and Rags (**Turok/Black Condor**) Morales.

In the aftermath of **The Chaos Effect** Gilad, the Eternal Warrior, goes in search of a replacement for Geoff. The first issue will feature an all-chromium wraparound cover and retails for $3.75. The following visual is one of Valiant's teasers.



CAN YOU HANDLE IT ?

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13th-15th May 1994

Announcing a major new event for fans of Comics, Anime, Manga, Sci-fi, Red Dwarf, Gerry Anderson, Fantasy, Virtual Reality and much more...

Guests include: Dan Abnett, John Bolton, Glenn Fabry, Alan Grant, Tony Luke, Pat Mills and Kevin O'Neill.

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For pre booking and programme details contact the Barbican Box office on 071-638 8891.

Tune into Capital Radio 95.8 FM for final show details or see local press and all good comic shops.

Friday 10.00am - 8.00pm, Saturday 10.00am - 6.00pm, Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

HTC World, Coppergate House, 16 Brune Street London E1 7NJ.

Axis to publish Shaman's Tears

MIKE Grell's successful, but ultimately doomed, Image title **Shaman's Tears** has been acquired by Larry Stroman and Todd Johnson's Axis Comics along with two other Grell created series.

Shaman's Tears #3 will follow on directly from the two Image published issues and will lead into a spin-off series entitled **Bar Sinister**. Written by Grell, it features art by **Strangers** artist Rick Hoberg, who formerly worked with Grell on DC's **Green Arrow**.

The third Grell title will see the return of his Jon Sable character, who debuted in a 56 issue run for First Comics, followed by an equally impressive 27 issues as **Sable** — spinning-off from the short-lived TV series — and a ten issue **Mike Grell's Sable** reprint series.

Tentatively titled **Sable and the Cat**, the Axis title is to be drawn by DC's Dick Giordano and follows the adventures of Sable and his new sidekick. It is planned for an autumn release.

In addition, Axis plans to publish eight more $1.95 titles over the coming three months.

● **Tribe**, another ex-Image comic, will continue with issue 3 due to ship in May. The series will continue to be produced by creators Larry Stroman and Todd Johnson.

● **B.E.A.S.T.I.E.S** is the creation of former **Ghost Rider** artist Javier Saltares and features a team of super-powered hi-tech mercenaries. The first issue ships in May.

● **Deathgrip**, by Beau (**Black Terror**) Smith and Jim (**Hardcase**) Callahan, stars a corporate vigilante who is linked closely to **Tribe** and launches in May.

● **Nightvenger**, arguably another rendition of Batman, delves into mysticism as Nightvenger, aka Michael Harris, faces threats from sadistic necromancers and the deepest recesses of hell.

The series is written by comics newcomer Mike DiGesu, with art by Joel (**Dinosaurs For Hire**) Thomas. The first issue ships in June.

● **Quantum 5** is another June title, about a team of reluctant super agents who are assigned the job of tracking down an unidentified secret organisation.

The series is written by Dan Jolley, with art from Joe (**JLA**) Phillips.

● **W** is a comic about a group of highly skilled super-powered assassins called Who, What, Where, Why and When. Written by Brian McDonald with art by Brian O'Connell, the series debuts in June.

● **Marcus Arena** is a new series by Terry Hinson and Paris Cullins, set in the year 3000. It follows resistance fighters and their hero, Marcus Arena, battling an alien invasion. Marcus is the greatest zero gravity warrior alive and one of mankind's last hopes.

The first issue ships in July.

● July's **The Power Company**, by Fred Dinehart, Shea Anton Pensa and Kelley Krantz is potentially Axis Comics X-Men. When a group of six teenagers suddenly discover they possess strange and alarming powers, they band together and form a renegade superhero group.

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*CHRIS (X-Men) Claremont and Chris (**Excalibur**) Wozniak are the creative team behind the lead story in the new **Star Trek: The Next Generation Special #2**. The 64 page, July shipping, $3.95 special edition tells the story of how **Star Trek** "classic" character, Jamie Finney, finds himself in the 24th Century and in the company of Captain Picard and his Enterprise crew. The two other stories in the special are written by **Star Trek: The Next Generation** regulars Michael Jan Friedman, Gordon Purcell and Terry Pallot.*

Diamond — comics by genre

IN FEBRUARY, Diamond Distributors added Genre Codes to their **Diamond Previews** order form and asked all retailers to assign a genre code from one of 16 different categories to each ordered title.

After processing the orders for February, Diamond then produced some interesting "Market Share By Genre" information. These percentages are based on the quantity of comics ordered against whatever genre code the 3,500+ retailers assigned to it.

Action/Adventure	2.44%	Movie/TV tie-in	.30%
Anthology	.42%	Reality based	.42%
Anthropomorphic	1.28%	Romance	.06%
Crime	1.15%	Science Fiction	3.13
Fantasy	3.29%	Superhero	82.46%
Horror	.86%	Toy tie-in	.06%
Humour	2.27%	War	.09%
Manga	1.78%	Western	.01%

Diamond vice-president of purchasing Bill Schanes said of the figures, "Hopefully these numbers will be useful to publishers in planning their lines, and to retailers in placing their advance orders."

Enigmatically, Shanes continued, "In looking at the numbers, the first thing that jumps out is the wide majority of titles in the superhero genre. If I were a publisher contemplating a new line or title, do I follow suit with a new superhero, or do I target a different niche? If I'm a retailer, do I concentrate on superheroes or try to diversify?"

The overwhelming percentage of superhero titles does question whether superheroes are this popular or whether retailers, reluctant to experiment assume superheroes are a safer bet.

Topps Comics expands line

TOPPS Comics is further increasing its line of titles with four new comics being released in June and July.

● The demon Frightful, from Topps' **Satan's Six** mini series is to feature in his own three-issue series in June.

Written by **War Machine**'s, Len Kaminski and Scott Benson, the series follows the demon as he takes a break from Satan's Six and goes on holiday to New York.

Unfortunately for Frightful, the angel Pristine has appointed herself guardian of the city and prevents the demon from causing carnage.

The series is illustrated by John Cleary — who will be drawing the new **Boof** series for Image — while Steve (**Guardians of the Galaxy**) Montano provides the inks. The first issue will retail for $2.50.

● **Mars Attacks** is an all-new five-issue series based on the 1950s trading card set. Written by Keith (**Trencher**) Giffen and drawn by Charlie (Judge Dredd) Adlard, the first issue will retail for $2.95.

● Sam Kieth replaces Bill Stout as cover artist on the new **Cadillacs & Dinosaurs** three-issue story arc *Man-Eater*. In which series hero Jack Tenrac returns to his home city to find it decimated by rogue dinosaurs. Roy Thomas continues as script-writer while interior art is by Claude St. Aubin. The first issue ships in June and retails for $2.50.

● **Victory** is the latest in Topps' line of Kirbyverse comics and promises to redefine the entire Kirby universe of characters.

Victory has the return of Captain Victory, Silver Star, Teenagents, Satan's Six and The Ninth Men and is by Kurt Busiek, Keith (**JLA**) Giffen and Jimmy Palmiotti. The first part of the five issue series ships in July, priced $2.50.

IN BRIEF

No animated Liefeld

IT SEEMS that the proposed **Youngblood** cartoon series has hit unforseen problems.

Extreme Studios and Roustabout Productions announced that the animated series was close to signing a deal with one of the major networks for a prime Saturday morning time slot.

Youngblood creator, Rob Liefeld, has decided that the cartoon will now go straight to video. Due, largely, to the network's requests for content changes to make the series more accessible to a younger audience.

Liefeld believes that the cartoon will lose none of its impact by going straight to video and will be more "story faithful" to his fans. He had no intentions of letting his creation be changed by TV executives, "like so many other heroes have been in the history of comicbook TV adaptations" he commented.

Spawn in Supreme

EXTREME Studios are increasing the frequency of **Supreme** during the summer to accomodate a six-issue storyline entitled *Supreme Madness*.

The six-part story will feature guest appearances from the ever-popular **Spawn**, Dale Keown's **Pitt** and **Stormwatch** and **Union** from Jim Lee's Wildstorm Productions.

The story within a series is produced by Extreme Studios, and commences in issue 13, it will retail for $2.50 instead of its usual $1.95 throughout the crossover.

Pitt is also guest-starring in **Vanguard 8**, featuring art from **Aquaman: Time and Tide** artist Kirk Jarvinen.

The character's inclusion into Image's poorest selling title could be construed as a sales aid for the $1.95 title.

Blazing comeback

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COMPLEMENTING its existing war titles, **Vietnam Journal** and **Days of Wrath**, Apple Comics has released **Blazing Combat: World War I & II**. Drawing from reprints originated for the 1964 Warren magazine, **Blazing Combat**, this reprint series includes the work of Reed Crandall, John Severin and Angelo Torres with cover paintings by Frank Frazetta.

The first issue is in shops at the moment, with issue two and three due in April and June. It retails for $3.75.

Malibu cuts back

MALIBU Comics is cancelling **The Protectors, Gravestone, Ex-Mutants, Ferrett, Ninja High School** and all other Genesis and Eternity titles in April and May.

Malibu intends to focus its energies on the Ultraverse, Star Trek licensed properties and the Rock-It Comix imprint. Editor in chief Chris Ulm said "We'll do better with fewer titles, we have to be focused and retailers have made it very clear... that there is simply too much product in the marketplace right now."

Robertson's Rogue

DARICK Robertson, artist for Marvel's **New Warriors**, is due to leave the title with #50 to work on projects for both Marvel and Malibu's Ultraverse.

Fans of his work will be interested to note that as part of Marvel's Poster Programme, Robertson has produced a Rogue poster.

Inked by Mark (**Excalibur**) Farmer, the poster ships on 12th July and retails for $4.95.

Novelising Knightfall

FOLLOWING the success of Roger Stern's best-selling novelisation of *The Death of Superman*, Bantam Books is preparing to launch a prose version of the *Knightfall* saga written by Batman editor Dennis O'Neil.

A different version will be made available to younger readers in Bantam's **Batman: Knightfall and Beyond**, written by Alan Grant.

Time Warner Audio Books is releasing a full scale dramatisation of *The Death of Superman* which was written and produced for the BBC by Dirk Maggs. Maggs is currently producing *Batman: Knightfall* for Mark Goodier's afternoon show on Radio 1FM.

End of an Age

MARVEL's preview title **Marvel Age** is to cease publishing with the August shipping issue 140.

New York con

THE traditional summer New York Comicon has moved to the Sheriton New York Hotel and Towers, Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street, New York on the weekend of June 4th-5th. Confirmed guests to date include Walt Simonson, Mike Mignola, Bernie Wrightson, Jae Lee, Jim Starlin, Art Thibert, Paul Chadwick and Archie Goodwin.

Details from Great Eastern Conventions on 0101 908 788 6845.

Above: *His first solo series since Epic's critically-acclaimed* ***Metropol*** *(currently being seen in* ***Purr Quarterly****), Ted McKeever's 5-issue early 1995 new Vertigo series is* ***Industrial Gothic****, featuring a blind alcoholic and his bilateral amputee wife.* ***Below:*** *Garth Ennis and Phil Winslade's* ***Goddess****, a 8-issue Vertigo series launching in October.*

DC Comics 1994:
Vertigo, Milestone and Paradox

For 1994, DC Comics looks to increase its market through alternatives: the expanding Milestone line, the launch of Paradox — a "street comics" imprint — and a more realistic, cutting edge Vertigo range.

One of the major drawbacks of DC's Vertigo line — according to creators — has been the restriction in conveying realistic speech when writing realistic situations. Now, the final trace of the old Comics Code approved regime disappears as DC has announced this month to retailers that stronger language may be contained in *all* Vertigo titles (their emphasis) than has previously been the custom.

Vertigo expands

The mature readers reader imprint continues to expand in the coming year and in terms of new comics are producing more than ever.

● **The Horrorist** has Jamie Delano returning to the character that he helped create, John Constantine.

the story pits the Hellblazer in a battle with an entity who provokes and inspires the revelation of one's deepest fears and loathings, the protagonist of the title.

Planned as the first of a number of mini-series featuring the Horrorist, this series has artwork from David (**V For Vendetta**) Lloyd and is scheduled in early 1995.

● **Egypt** by Peter Milligan and Sean Phillips is a tale of ancient magic and philosophy which also aims to satirise contemporary mores and attitudes.

With an initial setting in ancient Egypt, it tells of the practice of initiating new kings by their death at the hands of the priests of the Order of Osiris. They are then brought back to life, reborn as living gods.

It then moves to contemporary times where four rich teenagers decide to recreate the Osiris ritual.

But their victim, Vincent O'Shea, wakes up after his "death" to discover he has been transported through time, back to ancient Egypt.

● The rescheduled **Goddess** (originally planned as a mainstream DC title for September 1992) tells the tale of Rosie Nolan coming to terms with paranormal powers over which she has no control.

Helped by a radical animal rights activist, she is pursued around the world by the CIA and the British police as she comes to terms with the full realisation of her abilities

This black comedy of violent satire and ecological themes is an eight issue series from **Hellblazer** writer, Garth Ennis and Phil (**Car Warriors**) Winslade and is scheduled to appear in shops in October.

● **Industrial Gothic** is a five issue series, scheduled to appear in early 1995 from Ted "(**Metropol**) McKeever.

It follows Uncle Pencil (a blind alcoholic) and his common-law wife Nickle Pepper (a bilateral amputee) who start to hear about a wondrous place called the Tabernacle. A place where you are judged on who you are, rather than what you look like.

So the odd couple set out from their institution home and start a journey to find the Tabernacle.

● **Vamps** is described by its editor Stuart Moore as "Dracula meets *Thelma & Louise*. Vampire biker chicks on a bloody romp through America".

Launching in June, the series sees the return of Elaine Lee to mainstream comics writing after her short spell on Marvel's *Razorline* titles and her ongoing project with Mike Kaluta, **Starstruck**. She is joined by Irish artist William (*Hellblazer*) Simpson in a six issue series.

● **Jonah Hex: Riders of the Worm and Such**, is the sequel to last year's critically-acclaimed **Two-Gun Mojo**.

The follow up five-issue series is by the same creative team of Joe Lansdale, Tim Truman and veteran artist Sam Glanzman. It is set for early 1995 in the same deluxe format as the first series.

● **Mobfire** by Gary Ushaw and Warren Pleece is a six-issue series due in September. Described as "*The Godfather* meets black magic in the streets of modern-day London", it follows Jack Pepper, the reluctant new head of Britain's premiere crime family and his wish to become

a legitimate businessman. But the black magician behind Jack's father's success has other plans.

● **Shadows Fall** is a modern urban horror story in a 6 issue prestige format by John Ney Reiber and John Van Fleet.

It tells of Warren Gale, a man who should have died at the hands of a policeman 15 years earlier. But the bullet meant for him hit a young girl, and instead of losing his life, Warren lost his shadow.

Now, years later, his shadow walks through a desolate industrial city, tempting the weak and hopeless to commit suicide.

● **Moonshadow**, the award winning 1985 series originally published by Marvel's Epic Comics, is reprinted by Vertigo. The series is by J.M. DeMatteis with art from Jon J. Muth and Kent Williams.

● **Preacher** is a new ongoing series by the **Hellblazer** team of Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon. The Preacher is a small-town Baptist minister who is changed by an entity called Genesis — part angel, part devil — into a man with the power to manipulate everything.

Abhorring his new found ability, Jesse Custer, the Preacher, goes on an odyssey across America that keeps him in a constant battle with both heaven and hell.

● **The Invisibles** is a series which editor Stuart Moore believes will become as popular as **The Sandman**. Written by Grant Morrison, it marks his return to a regular monthly title with this series about a secret society of occult subversives.

The Invisibles' worldwide organisation exists simultaneously at all points of space and time and is dedicated to subversion in all its forms. In a series that features some of Morrison's strangest creations to date, the reader is invited to follow the characters as they ponder the godly nature of the Beatles, battle it out with their age-old enemies the Lost Ones and take part in the ultimate conspiracy.

Artwork for the series is provided by long-time collaborator Steve **(Zenith)** Yeowell, Jill **(Black Orchid)** Thompson and various guest pencillers. The first issue is due to ship in July.

● **The Sandman/Sandman Mystery Theatre Special** follows a story which started in **The Sandman** #1 as the Golden Age Sandman travels to the place where the Lord of Dreams is held captive in the 1930s. As the ephemeral world of dreams and the dark environment of the 1930s are meshed, co-author Neil Gaiman promises the one-shot will be "true to the character of both our series".

Artwork for the early 1995 shipping 64 page prestige format title is by Kent **(Wolverine: Killing)** Williams.

Alternative concepts

Factoid Books are part of a new imprint from DC called Paradox Press. The new imprint's flagship series is a bi-monthly anthology series dedicated to the proposition that truth is stranger, sillier, sicker and, ultimately, more astonishing than fiction.

The series will be featured in oversized 224 page books in a black and white format featuring between 50 and 200 different stories per book.

● **The Big Book of Conspiracies** is the first in the line of *big books* and is written by veteran comics creator Doug Moench and features the artwork of Richard Piers Raynor, Bryan Talbot, Mike Avon Oeming, Brett Ewins, Kevin O'Neill and dozens of other artists.

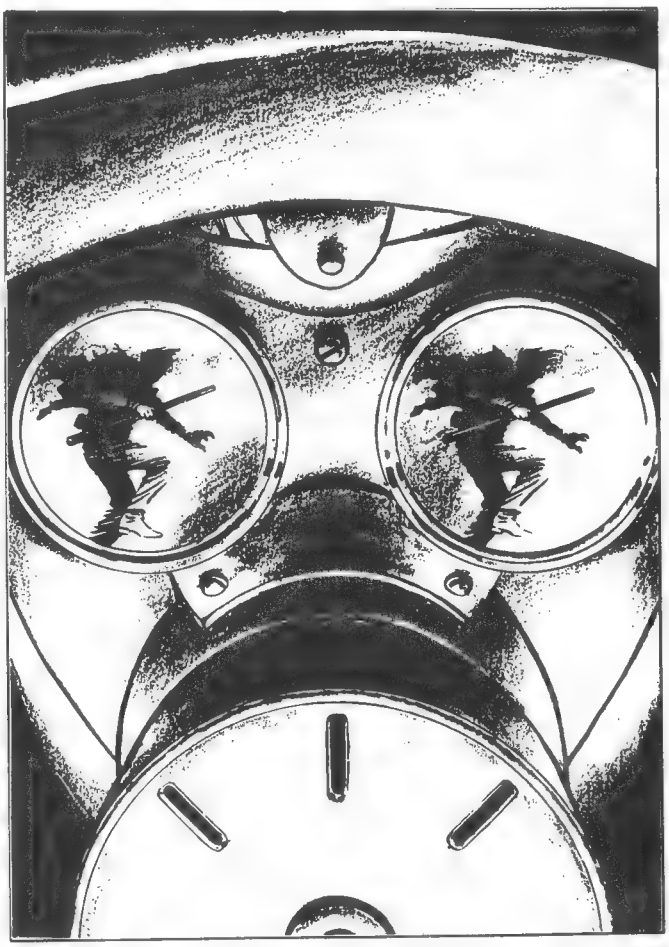
Topics covered in this mature readers book include: *Did Man Ever Really Land on the Moon? The State Department's Secret UFO Experiments, The Cannabis Conspiracy, The Plots to Kill Castro, Who was Jack the Ripper?* and investigations into the alleged conspiracies behind the deaths of John and Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Karen Silkwood and Malcolm X.

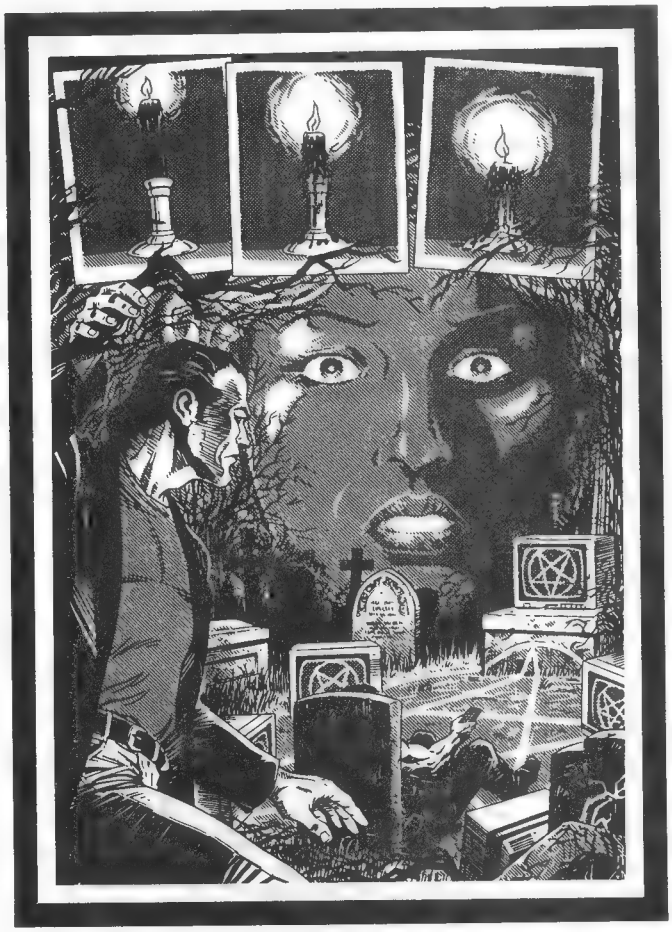
This new fact-based book is due to ship in February 1995.

● **The Big Book of Death** is written by Bronwyn Carlton and features art from Steve Dillon, John Estes, Phil Winslade, Linda Medley, Glenn Barr and many more. Topics covered include: *The Definition of Death, Tours of Famous Burial Grounds, Tiny Things that Kill, People who will not Die* and *Beyond Death*. Editor Andrew Helfer says of the title which is scheduled for November, that "if it's to do with dying, it will be covered in this anthology."

● **The Big Book of Urban Legends** is written by Robert Loren Fleming and Robert F. Boyd Jr. with artists including Rick Geary,

***Above:** The impressive creative team of Peter Milligan, Grant Morrison and artist Jamie Hewlett combine to tell a story within a story about the production of a comic book in **Bizarre Boys**. **Below:** The Golden Age Sandman is kept busy over the next few months as he appears in his regular monthly title, his first annual and the **Sandman/Sandman Mystery Theatre** crossover one-shot.*





Above: Novelist Tom DeHaven and Robin Smith (co-creator of ***The Bogie Man*** *for Fat Man Press) weave a tale of nightmares, abuse and torture in the three-issue 96 page* ***Green Candles****. The series is part of the Paradox Mystery line and ships early in 1995.* ***Below:*** *Howard Cruse's* ***Stuck Rubber Baby****, a 224 page epic story of a young gay man involved in the Civil Rights movement of the '60s. Cruse came to prominence in the comics industry as editor and founder of the award-winning anthology* ***Gay Comix****.*

I NODDED IN AGREEMENT - BUT OF COURSE, I WAS REALLY CURIOUS.
SHE TOLD US.
A PACK OF KLANSMEN HAD MOCKED THEIR WAY INTO THE BOOKERY STORE WHERE SLEDGE WORKED.
BAM!
IT WAS AFTER HOURS AND THE OWNER WAS GONE.
SLEDGE'S BOY WRIEN WAS THERE KEEPING HIS DAD COMPANY.
LISTEN, WHATEVER YOU GOT IN MIND, LEAVE HIM BUT OF IT. THE CHILD'S GOT NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ANY COMPLAINT YOU GOT ABOUT ME.
THIS HERE IS OUR INITIATION FOR THE KLAN.
WE GOTTA CUT OFF SOME NIGGER'S BALLS 'FORE THEY'LL LET US BE MEMBERS.
WE'RE JUST JOKIN' UH...
HOWDY, RASTUS! YOU BEEN HAVIN' A NICE DAY?
HEY, LOOK! THERE'S A BABY BACK HERE, TOO!
OH, WE GOT NO COMPLAINT ABOUT YOU, RASTUS - HAVE WE, BOYS?
NAW.
YOU WERE NAMED TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, RASTUS, SO YOU GOT ELECTED.
DADDY-
OW!
I'LL STILL LOVE YOU.
WREN TOLD SHILOH LATER ON THAT THE KILLERS NEVER ONCE CALLED SLEDGE BY HIS NAME. THEY KEPT SAYING "RASTUS."
SHILOH DOUBTED THEY EVEN KNEW WHO SLEDGE WAS. HE WAS JUST BLACK AND HANDY.
TELL 'EM I WANT TO GO, RASTUS.

Kevin Maguire, Hunt Emerson, Jackson Guice and Fred Hembeck.

This "big book" explores more than 200 legends as diverse as *The Poodle in the Microwave* to *The Kentucky Fried Rat*. This is the first of the series and is scheduled for late summer 1994.

● **The Big Book of Weirdos** is an anthology written by Carl Posey and features 67 famous "weirdos" including: Howard Hughes, Idi Amin Dada, "Screaming" Lord Sutch, Salvador Dali, Clara Bow and William Burroughs and features art from Mike Zeck, Batton Lash, Joe Staton, Danny Hellman and at least 60 others.

Scheduled for late 1994, the anthology will be edited by Paradox Press's group editor Bronwyn Taggart.

Other titles from Paradox include:

● **Brooklyn Dreams** follows the life of Brooklyn-born Vincent Carl as he attempts to sort out the real events in his life from the ones which he has dreamt.

Scheduled for late summer, this four-issue 96 page mini-series is written by J.M. DeMatteis and is painted by Glenn Barr.

● **Family Man**, a three part 96 page per issue story featuring Alonzo, a man who has been brought up by the mob for one reason, to protects its interests. But things start to go wrong when he discovers that he is being stalked by a group of fanatical assassins led by his own brother.

Written by Jerome Charyn, with art from Joe (**E-Man**) Staton, this black and white mini-series will launch in December.

● **Green Candles** is also in the three book 96 page format and tells of private investigator John Halting, who is hired by a woman whose nightmares are beginning to get the better of her.

Written by cult-favourite novelist Tom DeHaven with art from **Bogie Man** co-creator Robin Smith, the first book is due to ship in early 1995.

● **Hunter's Heart** follows two detectives as they track down a serial killer. But as they get closer to finding the killer, they discover that someone very high up is placing obstacles in their path.

The three book series is written by Neal Barrett Jr. with art from former Bill Sienkiewicz assistant Randy DuBurke and is scheduled to launch in November.

● **La Pacifica** is a three-book Paradox mini-series co-written by Amos Poe and Joel Rose with art from Tayyar Ozkan. It follows the story of hotelier Don Cooper, whose hotel suddenly becomes the site of a madman's killing spree. Cooper becomes obsessed with the killer and goes on a strange journey to understand what led this man to do the heinous crimes he committed.

● **The Project** is a two-part 96 page series which examines a huge inner-city housing development and the lives of the people living there. Written by John Figueroa, with art by Kirk Etienne, the series starts shipping in January 1995.

● **Stuck Rubber Baby** is the story of a young man's coming of age at the height of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and deals with issues such as homophobia and racism.

Written and drawn by Howard (**Gay Comix**) Cruse, this 224 page graphic novel is scheduled for February 1995.

Milestone on the move

Adding to their existing books, Milestone is expanding its range to include a host of new alternative superheroes to compliment the two latest launches **Shadow Cabinet** and **Xombi**.

● **Kobalt** is about a ruthless, vicious superhero who trains a impressionable kid to fill his shoes.

The series is written by John Rozum, with art from Arvel (**Iron Man**) Jones and John (**Tekworld**) Stanisci and ships in April.

● Another new Milestone creation to get a mini series is **Holocaust** by Ivan Velez and Jorge (**Punisher**) Zaffino. This time, however, the series examines one of the Dakota

Universe's most powerful villains and his effect on the hero community in the growing Milestone universe.

● **Fade**, an associate of the Blood Syndicate, is a temporal anomaly. A man who is displaced in time by three seconds and only through extreme concentration can solidify himself. Featuring in a four issue series due at Christmas, Fade's solo adventure is chronicled by Ivan Velez and Chriscross.

● **Deathwish**, by Adam Blaustein and J. H. Williams III, follows a well-armed vigilante from heroic beginnings to the brink of insanity in a four issue mini-series due in the autumn.

● From the pages of **Blood Syndicate** comes **Wise Son: The White Wolf**, a murder mystery set in Paris Island.

The four issue series is written, drawn and inked by Ho Che Anderson, the man behind the critically acclaimed mini-series **King**, the comics biography of Martin Luther King.

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MAJOR DIGRESSIONS

Giving credit where credit's due

Peter David, writer of comics, paperbacks, film scripts and stuff, contributes a weekly column, "But I Digress" to US trade paper ***The Comic Buyer's Guide****. In addition to appearing monthly in* ***Comics International****, his columns have been compiled by Krause Publications into a 258 page paperback, now available in all good comic shops.*

*"IF there's something I'm a stickler for, it's credit. Give it when it's due." — **Rob Liefeld***

*"Be careful what you wish for. You may get it." — **Old Chinese Proverb***

*"Don't make me angry. You wouldn't like me when I'm angry." — **Bill Bixby as Dr. Banner***

So Rob Liefeld wants credit.

Friends, Romans, Countrymen — lend me your ears. To paraphrase Shakespeare, I come not to bury Rob, but to praise him.

Anyone who so diligently lives his life by the credo of giving credit where credit is due must certainly have his request honoured to the maximum ability that this column and its crack research team can muster.

Since Rob expressed his gratitude to me for bringing up the matter of Cable's origins — thereby providing him an opportunity to depict Louise Simonson, one of the sweetest and most talented women in the industry, as a profit-hungry, acclaim-grabbing leech — I feel it only fair to continue in my Rob-sanctioned efforts to spread credit around.

Certainly Rob himself is liberal enough. The gent dispenses more credit than Citibank. For example, in an interview conducted by Paul Grant that appeared in #5 of **Hero**, Rob doles out the appropriate credit for the creative debacle called **Youngblood** #1:

***Youngblood #1** was a disaster, period, end of story. Put it behind me. It will always exist, but disaster. I worked with a friend, who I let go after that, who scripted the book. And when we reprint the first four issues, or zero through four, the whole probably will be rescripted and people will see how different, a different script on top of it. I did not write that. People, I was doing on that what I did on **X-Force**. I plotted it, and Fabian Nicieza would come in and script on me on **X-Force**. I plotted **Youngblood** #1, and I wanted two stories on each side. Little things like 'To be continued' didn't get stamped down in the right places. I mean, that was a production problem, but the writing — you know the whole package, I look back and I go, you know, never gonna shake it that I can acknowledge that it didn't turn out the way it was supposed to. Two, three, and four, I'll hold them up against any other comic book in terms of there's a story going along, and the characters are wrapped up in it, battle one large villain character, and it was resolved.*

There it is, folks. From Rob himself — the reason that **Youngblood** had such an abysmal launch. Never mind that the first test of a comic-book page is that you should be able to look at it unscripted and still be able to have some idea of what's happening. (It's called "storytelling.") Never mind the bad anatomy, lack of correct perspective, and non-existent backgrounds. Never mind that the comic book shipped, and continued to ship, months late.

Rob squarely gives credit for the pure lousiness of **Youngblood** to "friend" Hank Kanalz.

Wotta guy. Wotta guy. I can only think of the Genie from *Aladdin* singing, "You ain't never had a friend like me."

In the world of Rob Liefeld, the writer exists to clean up after his mess. The writer as scapegoat: to be blamed when things crash and burn and to be ignored — or even vilified — when things go well. To serve the convenience and whims of Rob Liefeld, master of credit.

He seems truly flummoxed that Kanalz was not able to do for him what Nicieza did for him, namely: Make him look good. Turn the you-know-what into Shinola. After all, aren't all writers interchangeable? All eminently equal and, likewise, disposable?

The inference to be drawn is that the much-despised Louise Simonson also slaved to make sense out of the pin-upped chaos that is a Liefeld page. She managed well enough to help make him a megastar, and for that she deserves — well, nothing but Rob's approbation, it seems. Perhaps — and this is purely speculation on my part — perhaps she left the X-books because she decided that staying where she clearly was not appreciated made even less sense than a page of Liefeld art.

Liefeld art.

By cracky, let's keep doling out that credit which Rob values so highly, shall we?

As we know by now, image is everything. The artwork is the be-all, end-all of comics. As far as Rob is concerned, Louise's contribution to **Cable** was negligible, non-existent. The words didn't matter. Only the visuals mattered.

And credit should be given where credit is due.

You want it, Rob? You got it.

I yanked out the **Cable** trade paperback, plus some back issues I had of **X-Force** (gleefully tearing pages out and faxing them around). The mission was a simple one: Give Credit.

Let's not kid ourselves. Copying art poses is commonplace enough in this industry. Everyone knows about it. Lots of people do it. (Curiously, when writers do it, it's called plagiarism and is considered to be as low as a writer can sink, whereas when artists do it, it's called swiping and is considered a means of reference. Thus is the coin of the held to a higher standard than the art of the visual, but that never seems to occur to anyone.)

Let us clarify the difference between referencing and swiping. Most, if not all, artists, use reference ranging from real life to work by others in their field. It's done so they can produce the best work possible. They want to "get it right," as it were. Certainly there's nothing wrong with that.

Nor is there anything wrong with an artist whose style is clearly influenced by another's. No on came into this business in a vacuum.

Swiping, however, is another matter. It's a sign of laziness. It's a shortcut, a means of not having to work as hard. It's when you're too lazy to design your own page layouts or figure something out on your own. So you have detailed files that show how superior artists in the field did things, and you stick them in where appropriate.

Drawing something in the style of, say, Will Eisner, is one thing. Doing a line-for-line copy of a page of Eisner, however, followed by John Bolton, followed by Steve Ditko — that's just a hodgepodge. It's cheating.

In a nutshell: An artist who is using reference still produces work that looks consistently like his own style. A swipe artist produces work that's all over the place.

And, since Rob Liefeld so stridently claims that credit must

*Above left: John Byrne's rendition of the Human Torch (**Fantastic Four #287**, 1985) and Rob Liefeld's Sunfire (**New Mutants #93**, 1990). As well as foreground figure, bottom left of each picture has villain in 'similar' pose.*

be given, why, we can — nay, *must* — assume that, if he were engaging in swiping (which I'm not suggesting he is), that he would, in fact, be crediting it.

Which means that any resemblance between a piece of Rob Liefeld art and some other artwork would have to be.....coincidence.

And if by some hideous happenstance, they were in fact, "homages", why then, we'd have to make sure they *were* credited, because, gosh darn it, Rob *wants* it that way.

On page 131, panel two of the **Cable** trade paperback, there's a very impressive panel of Sunfire being tossed backwards. By staggering coincidence, and identical panel first appeared, line for line, in **Fantastic Four** #247. John Byrne: You deserve credit. Stand up and take a bow for your artistry. Why, y'know, I bet Rob's doubtlessly intended credit to John was supposed to appear on that very page, and dumb ol' Louise forgot to write it down. Sure. That's it.

On page 159, the first panel has Wolverine charging in profile. Now, it's not absolutely, 100% identical to a similar sequence on page 17 of the **Ground Zero** trade paperback, drawn by Todd McFarlane. But it's close. You be the judge.

The main difference is that Todd has Wolverine with his left arm sweeping in front of him. Of course, Rob has him with both arms pulled back so that he's not only off-balance (inviting him to fall) but he's also leading with his chin, offering no defense except his bared teeth. Cable, unsurprisingly, decks him the next panel.

But heck, why let common sense stand in the way of a Rob Liefeld page? Besides, the writer can probably cover it.

(Todd, by the way, explains in the third issue of **Hero Illustrated**, Image's inability to ship books on any sort of schedule thusly: "We're growing roses ... If you want me to squat something out, I can do it right here on the table. Let them [other publishers] get the crap out on time, we'll grow the roses!" There you have it. They're not disorganized or undisciplined. They're constipated horticulturalists.)

Want more? **New Mutants** #100. Shatterstar rams a sword through himself in order to take out a foe in a dynamic double page spread. Holy cow, how staggeringly, coincidentally similar — right down to the line work — to a climactic moment in a battle from **Ronin** #1 by Frank Miller. An homage, no doubt — except no "After Miller" or similar acknowledgement appears. Perhaps it was a production error, committed by those same fools who left off the "To Be Continued" that would have made **Youngblood** so much more comprehensible.

Byrne, McFarlane, Miller. Who else should we be crediting?

Look. Over there. Now we're starting to get paranoid, unsettled by these amazing coincidences. The world is swirling. *Everything* in Rob's art is starting to look familiar. Could that be a Gil Kane Green Lantern or Atom? Why does Wolverine look like he was drawn by Neal Adams? Oh, wait! Now he's back to looking like Byrne! Is that a Steve Ditko Creeper scooting around? In our befuddlement, Stryfe is looking a lot like he stepped out of a Michael Golden **Micronauts**, right down to those funky spigots on his chest — but on page 20 of the paperback, he's lifting a guy off his feet in a panel identical to Dr. Doom threatening Kristoff in **Fantastic Four** #258, also by Byrne.

Where's their credit?

Far be it from me to accuse Rob of being some sort of swipe artist (Rob Hood: Prince of Thieves?), because that would be utterly contrary to his philosophy of due credit. We know how important that is to him.

And if it's important to him, it's important to us. And it should be to you, too.

So *Major Digressions* is putting forward the following offer: Start going through your back issues of **New Mutants**, **X-Force** — heck! Go through **Youngblood** while your at it. Give some of those extra copies you bought to friends, so they can help.

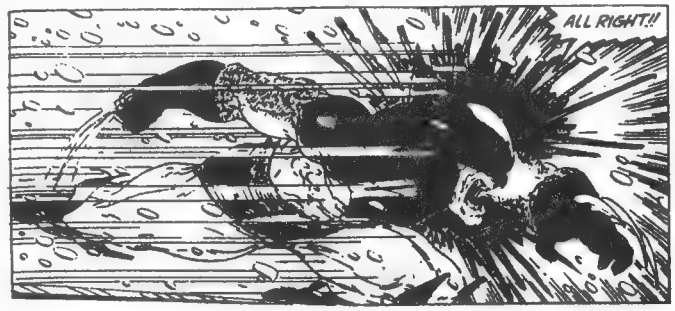
See how many art poses you can peg. Send photocopies of both the original source, plus their reincarnation from Rob's work, to: "Sticklers for Credit," To Be Continued, P.O.Box 239, Bayport, N.Y. 11705, United States of America.

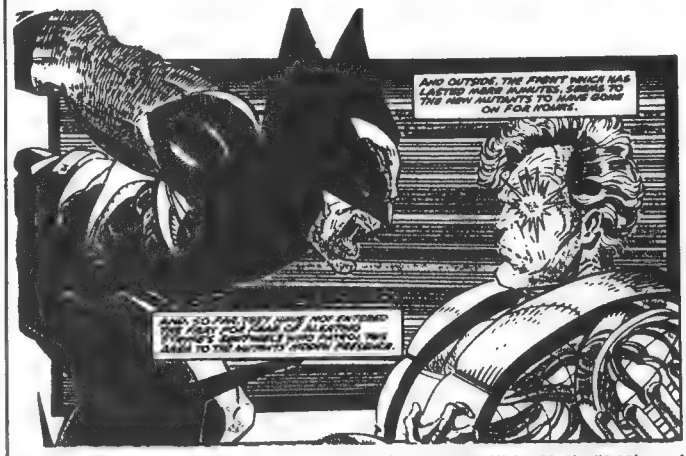
And Rob, if you're out there and wondering "Why me?" — let's remind you: Your good friend Erik Larsen started it, by writing a belligerent letter to **Wizard** in response to David Michelinie's polite missive about Venom's origins. And you perpetuated it by doing the same in regard to Walt Simonson's letter. If you had been satisfied with my acknowledgment that you had the most legitimate to Cable's origin, and Walt's gentlemanly description of Louise's contributions, if you had even followed Jim Valentino's chivalrous example in his clarifying that he was not intending to insult Louise, then this column would not have been written.

For that, Rob, you can take full credit.

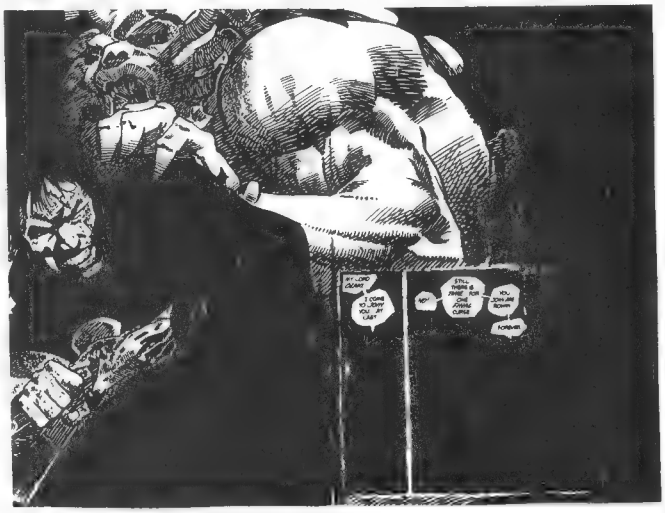
© Peter David, 1994

(Peter David, writer of stuff, is quite serious about the above offer. Make a party of it. Have friends over. Order in pizza, but bew sure to pay with credit.)

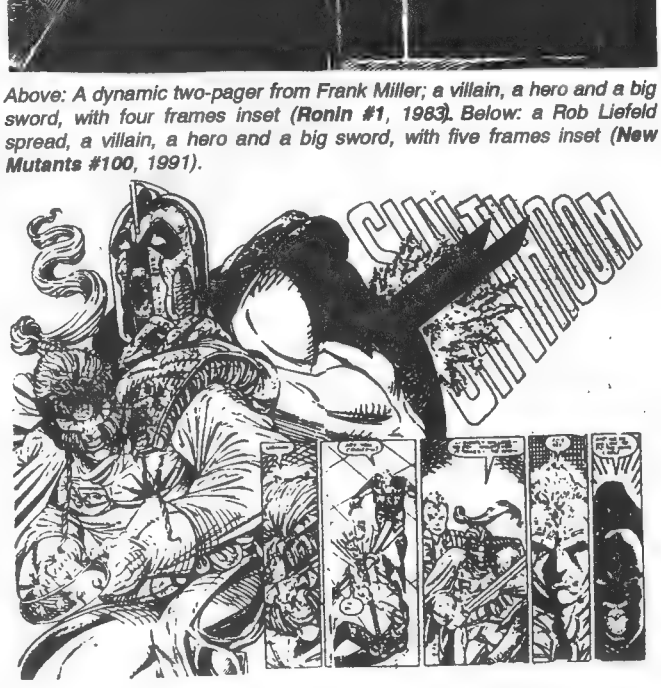




*Above: Wolverine, first by McFarlane (top, **Incredible Hulk #340**) and then, three years later, by Liefeld (**New Mutants #91**).*



*Above: A dynamic two-pager from Frank Miller; a villain, a hero and a big sword, with four frames inset (**Ronin #1, 1983**). Below: a Rob Liefeld spread, a villain, a hero and a big sword, with five frames inset (**New Mutants #100, 1991**).*



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Blackball bowled out

DAVE Elliott's Blackball Comics, the self-deprecatorily named London-based publisher of Keith Giffen's **Trencher** and Marc Hempel's **Radical Dreamer**, has closed its doors due to poor order levels from direct market distributors.

Blackball grew out of the demise of the Atomeka imprint which in turn had taken over when Tundra UK closed down.

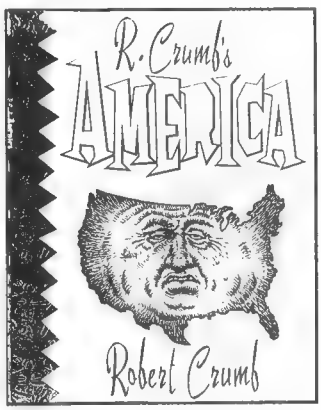
Elliott himself, across a span of eight years in the industry, began his career for **Comics International** publishers Quality Communications Ltd, which he followed with work for Fleetway, Deadline, Marvel-Epic, John Brown Publishing, as well as running Atomeka, Tundra and Blackball.

Prior to Tundra, he had been offered the role of handling Dark Horse's UK operation.

American Crumb

Robert Crumb's America is a new 96 page trade paperback from Knockabout which will be released on June 23rd.

The collection includes stories from the hopefulness of the Sixties through to the fear and despair of the Nineties.



Also included will be appearances from some of Crumb's most popular characters including Mr Natural and Lenore Goldberg, his militant feminist creation. The collection retails for £8.99, with a limited signed hardcover for £29.95.

Also from Knockabout in June is a revised and enlarged version of Hunt Emerson's 1986 release **Jazz Funnies**. This edition features 24 new pages of artwork in the 80 page black and white collection which retails for £7.99.

Storm from Savoy

SAVOY books, the controversial Manchester publishers of **Meng & Ecker**, has released the first of a new eight-part quarterly comic **Reverbstorm**.

Written by David Britton, the publication date for this black and white comic is 23rd May. The first issue of **Reverbstorm** is 56 pages, and includes a free CD single called, appropriately, *Reverbstorm*.

The title is suggested for mature readers and retails for £3.50.

IN BRIEF

East Europe show

EUROCON '94 is being held in Timisoara, Romania from 26-29th May. The convention is mainly SF orientated, but it will also a comics theme as top French artist joins other guests including Forrest J. Ackerman, Norman Spinrad and John Brunner. The comics hall will be split into four categories; a guest section, an art competition section; plus Romanian and international comics sections.

Contact Silviu Genescu on 010 40 56 156990 for more information.

Comics course

UNDERSTANDING Comics and Graphic Novels is an eight-week course which investigates comics as a worldwide creative medium, including superheroes, horror, humour, manga and Undergrounds.

The course will be held at Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AP and will be conducted by Richard Reynolds, author of **Superheroes** and Roger Sabin, author of **Adult Comics.**

The eight week course will run on Tuesday evenings between 6.00 and 7.30pm. The course costs £55 per person and further details can be obtained by phoning 071 753 0388.

Manga's back

AFTER a month off the stands, **Manga Mania** has returned, along with **Jurassic Park** and **Aliens**. While Dark Horse dropped their entire UK line following the disastrous sales of **Max Overload** in favour of investing in America, a video company has come to the rescue. Manga Entertainment has revived three of the Dark Horse International titles and re-employed the DHI staff.

Continuing to work out of their original North London offices, the team is back on line with the three most successful DHI titles.

But the story remains incomplete with the ownership of Manga Entertainment rumoured to be changing hands. The subsidiary had been launched by Island World though the Philips Electronics company Polygram is thought to be purchasing Manga Entertainment.

While talk of the purchase dominates manga and anime fandom, Polygram marketing and press office have proven to be either unaware or unwilling to comment.

Captain Clevedon

KEV F. Sutherland offers his alternative to the raft of superhero titles currently on sale with his latest creation, **Captain Clevedon**.

The first issue of the Avon (Bristol-based) Avenger is available direct for 50p plus 25p postage and packing, from Kev at UT Productions, PO Box 48, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7LQ.

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1994
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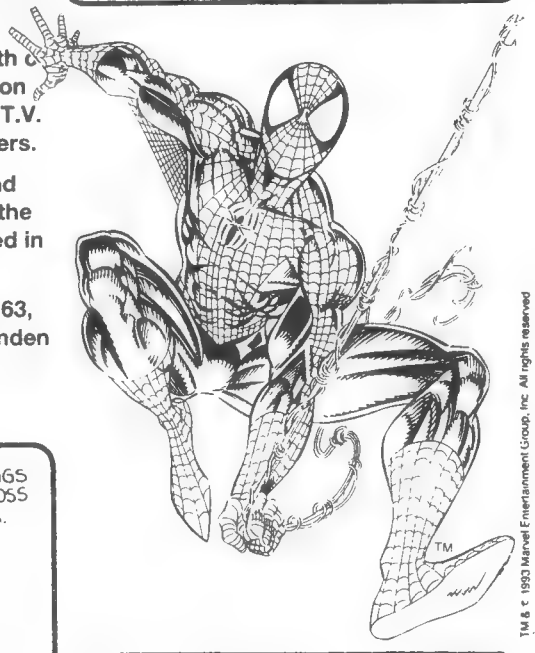

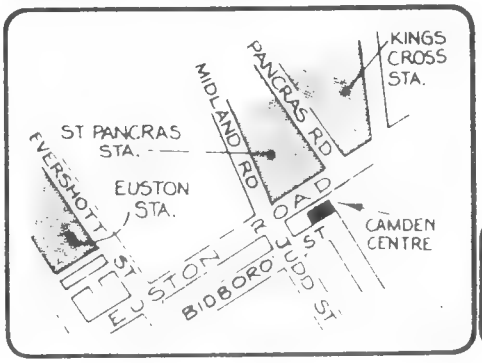

THERE WILL BE A COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 1994:

MAY 22nd, JULY 24th, OCTOBER 30th.

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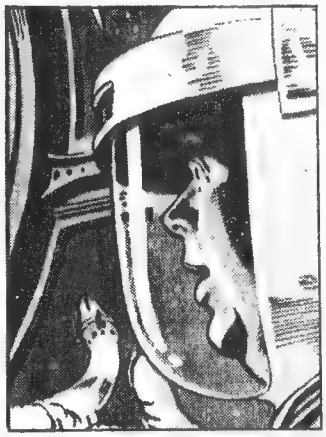
*Above: The specially commissioned Liam Sharp and Simon Bisley cover illustration for Marvel UK's **Overkill** #50. The anniversary issue also includes a Glen Dakin and Pascal Ferry **Plasma** strip and the return of **Wild Thing**, by Simon Jowett and Duke Mighten. **Overkill** #50 is a 52 page magazine, retailing for 99p and is on sale in newsagents and comic shops on June 2nd.*



Top artist dies

HIGHLY-regarded British artist, Keith Watson died on April 9th, aged 59. A quiet and unassuming man, Watson was considered to be the last of a generation having joined the Frank Hampson studio, at 15, during the end of the golden era of **The Eagle**, when its massive sales allowed for photo-gravure printing and expensive but beautifully produced artwork.

He went on to work on strips for **TV Century 21**, **Thunderbirds**, **Hotspur** and the Dutch **Eppo** before returning to **Eagle** in 1989 and 1990 for two Dan Dare stories.

Keith was also an early member of the Society of Strip Illustration.

A CHILDREN's variety show is being staged at Wimbledon Theatre on Sunday, May 8th. The show starts at 7.30pm, tickets for the charity event cost £7 for adults and £5 for children and are available through the Wimbledon Theatre box office. There will be an auction taking place during the show, which will include a selection of original Judge Dredd artwork. Judge Dredd and Mr Blobby were on the streets to promote the show, and featured in the national press.

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FANTASTIC FOUR
1 VG+ (pence cover) .. £795
8 VG+ £110
20 VG £38
21 G £15
22 VG £18
25 VG £60
28 G/VG £48
28 G/VG £20
37 VFN £32
38 VG £11
38 FN £15
41 FN/VFN £15
42 FN £13
43 FN £13
43 FN/VFN £14
44 FN £11
44 VF/NM £25
45 VG £6.50
46 VG £9
47 VG/FN £7.50
47 VFN £23
51 VG/FN £9
51 FN £10
51 VFN £19.50
52 VG/FN £15
52 FN/VFN £26
52 VFN £30
53 VG/FN £11
54 G £4.95

FANTASTIC FOUR
55 FN £12
56 VFN £23
60 VF/NM £23
61 VG £6
61 VFN £11
62 VFN £11
62 VF/NM £16
63 VG/FN £6
63 VF/NM £16
64 FN/VFN £10
64 VFN £14
65 FN £9
65 VFN £11
66 VG/FN £23
66 FN/VFN £30
67 VG/FN £7.50
67 VFN £11
68 VG/FN £8
69 FN/VFN £9.50
69 VF/NM £16
70 FN £7.50
71 FN/VFN £8.50
72 FN £6.50
72 VFN £11
74 FN £7
75 FN (loose centre) £6
78 FN £6.50
78 VFN £7.50
78 VF/NM £10
79 FN £7.50
79 VF/NM £10
81 FN/VFN £6.50
82 FN/VFN £6.50
83 FN/VFN £6.50
86 VFN £7.50
87 FN £5.25
87 FN/VFN £6
87 VF/NM £8
88 VFN £8
93 VFN £6.50
102 VF/NM £8
107 VF/NM £5
108 VF/NM £6.50
190 FN £3.25
109 VFN £4.50
109 VF/NM £5
112 FN £9.50
123 VFN £6
ANNUAL 3 VF/NM £30

GHOST RIDER VOL.2
2 VF/NM £9.50
5 FN £5.50
5 VF/NM £8

HULK
King size special 1 FN £8
King size special 2 VG £8
102 FN+ £50
106 VFN £15
107 FN/VFN £15
122 FN £5.95
340 VG/FN £9
340 FN £12
367 FN £5.50
372 VF/NM £7.50
377 VFN £8.50

IRON MAN
1 FN £105
1 FN/VFN £115
1 VFN £125
2 VG £18
2 VFN £48
3 VG £14
3 VFN £36
4 VG £8.50
4 FN £15
5 VG £8.50
5 FN/VFN £20
7 VG £8

IRON MAN
7 VFN £18
7 VF/NM £20
8 VG £8
8 VFN £16
9 VF/NM £18
10 VF/NM £18
11 VG £8
11 FN/VFN £14
12 VG £6
12 VG/FN £8
13 VG £6
13 FN £12
14 VG £6
15 VG £6
15 VF/NM £14
16 VG/FN £4.95
17 VFN £8.50
18 FN £6
18 VFN £8.50
19 VG/FN £4.95
20 VG/FN £4.95
20 FN £6
21 FN/VFN £4.95
21 VFN £6.50
22 FN £6
23 FN £6
24 FN/VFN £7.50
25 VG/FN £4.95
25 FN £4.95
26 VFN £6.50
27 VFN £6.50
28 VFN £7
29 VFN £7
30 FN £6
34 VFN £7
36 FN £6
37 FN £6
39 VG/FN £4.95
40 VFN £7
41 VFN £7
42 FN £6
43 FN £4.95
45 VFN £4.95
53 VF/NM £4.95
55 VG £16

IRON MAN & SUB-MARINER
1 VG/FN £30
1 VG £28

LONGSHOT M/S
1 VF/NM £8

MARVEL COMIC PRESENTS
72 VF/NM £2.95

MARVEL PREMIERE
3 VG/FN £6

MARVEL SUPERHEROES
1 VG £17
14 VG £15
14 FN £28
16 VG £16
68 FN/VFN £12.50

MARVEL TEAM-UP
53 VF/NM £6.50
(Byrne X-Men)

NEW MUTANTS
87 VFN £25
87 VF/NM £28
91 NM £6.50
95 VFN £6.50
96 VFN £4.95
New Mutants Special Edition
VF/NM £4.95

NICK FURY VOL.1
3 VG £6
3 VFN £13
9 FN £1.95
13 VF/NM £2.95

PETER PARKER, SPECTACULAR SPIDERMAN
1 VFN £17.50
2 VFN £8.95
147 VF/NM £9.95

SILVER SURFER VOL.1
2 FN £32
6 FN+ £18
6 FN/VFN £24
7 VG £14
9 FN £16
10 FN/VFN £16
11 FN £11
13 VFN £14
15 VG/FN £14
17 FN £11

SGT.FURY
ANNUAL 1 VG/FN . £8.50
ANNUAL 2 FN- £7
6 FN £16
8 VFN £24
9 G £4.95
10 VFN+ £28
16 VF/NM £19
18 VFN £17
19 VFN+ £18
20 VG+ £8.50
28 FN- £6.50

AMAZING SPIDERMAN
Special 3 FN £12
Special 3 VG £7
Annual 2 VG £28
Annual 15 VF/NM ... £10
Annual 15 VFN £9
Giant-Size 4 VF/NM .. £40
7 FN/VFN £170
9 VG/FN £110
12 FN/VFN £90
15 FN+ £110
16 FN £75
17 VG £90
(2nd app Goblin)
28 G/VG £32
35 G £9.50
35 VG £18
37 G/VG £15
41 G £10
53 VG £7
54 VG/FN £12
63 VG £6.95
70 VFN £14
73 FN £12
74 FN/VFN £13
75 FN £8
77 FN/VFN £9
90 VG/FN £7.50
92 FN £8
94 VG £7.50
126 VFN £7.95
161 VF/NM £7.50
174 VF/NM £9.50
200 VF/NM £8.50
238 VG £6.50
238 VG/FN £7
(238's may not include transfers)
252 VFN £6.50
299 VFN £8
302 VFN £4.95
304 VFN £5.50
345 VF/NM £5.50

WEB OF SPIDERMAN
29 VF/NM £6

SPIDERMAN VS WOLVERINE
1 FN,1st print £8
1 VF/NM 1st print £11.95

STRANGE TALES VOL.1
45 VG/FN £20
108 FN/VFN £42
109 FN/VFN £30
111 G/VG £28
116 G/VG £9.50
121 VG £7.50
121 FN £12
121 FN+ £13
122 VG £7.50
123 G/VG £7.50
123 VG/FN £13
124 VG £7.50
125 VG £7.50
128 G/VG £6
128 VFN £14
129 FN £8
130 VG £8
131 FN- £11
132 FN £14
132 FN/VF £15
133 VG £6.50
133 FN- £11
134 VG £5.50
134 FN/VF £13
135 VFN £29
136 FN £7
140 VF/NM £8.50
142 VG £4.25
143 FN £7.50
144 FN £7.50
145 VG £4.25
147 VF/NM £12
148 VG £6
149 VFN £12.50
150 VFN £13
151 FN £9.75
152 FN £7.95
153 FN £7.95
154 FN £7.95
155 VG/FN £4.95
156 VF/NM £12
157 FN/VFN £8.95
158 VFN £9.95
159 FN £8.50
162 NM £11
164 VF/NM £8.50
165 FN/VFN £8.50
166 FN £7.50
167 VG/FN £7
168 VFN £8.50

SUB-MARINER VOL.1
2 FN £16
3 FN £7.50
5 VFN £7.50
7 FN/VFN £9.50
9 VFN £9
14 VFN £12.50
15 FN/VFN £6

TALES OF SUSPENSE
42 G/VG £36
43 VG/FN £55
45 G £23
45 G/VG £25
47 VG £26
47 VG+ £29
48 VG+ £28
48 VG/FN £40
(nice white pages!)
49 G/VG £14
50 G £10
50 VG £16
51 VG/FN £12
52 FN £26
53 G £8
55 G/VG £6.50
58 VG/FN £35
63 G/VG £10
64 VFN £20
64 VG+ £9
66 VG £8.95
66 VG £8.95
67 VFN £15
67 VG/FN £7
68 VG/FN £6
68 FN/VFN £15
69 VG+ £6.50
70 VFN £14
70 VFN+ £15
71 FN £7.50
71 FN+ £12
72 FN £7
73 FN £8.50
75 FN £7
75 FN+ £9
77 FN £7
78 VF+ £14
83 VFN- £13.50
86 VFN £9.50

TALES TO ASTONISH
36 G/VG £22
45 VG/FN £20
47 VG £9.50
56 FN+ £22
56 VG £6.50
57 FN- £20
58 FN £12.50
59 G/VG £12
65 VG/FN £6
66 FN/VFN £12.50
67 VG £7.50
67 FN- £8.00
67 FN £10
68 VG £5.50
69 VG- £6.50

SHOP OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK ■ 250 000 COMICS IN STOCK

Mega-City is North London's largest comic shop, offering one of the largest selections of comics & sub-culture in the UK. We are open 7 days a week 10am-6pm (10am-7pm Thurs & Fri). From Camden Town Tube Station (Northern Line), turn right into Camden High Street, & Inverness Street is the first turning on the left, (between 'Traders' & 'Office Shoes').

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TALES TO ASTONISH
69 VG/FN £8.50
69 FN/VFN £12.50
73 VF/NM £18
74 FN/VFN £10
75 FN £6.50
75 VFN £4.95
75 VF/NM £14
76 FN/VFN £7.50
76 VFN £12.50
77 VFN £13
78 FN £6.50
78 VFN £12.50
79 VFN £12.50
81 VF/NM £14
82 VF/NM £18
82 FN/VFN £14
83 VG £7
83 FN/VFN £9.50
83 VFN £12.50
84 FN £6.50
84 VF/NM £13
85 VF/NM £12.50
85 FN £6.50
87 FN £7.50
87 FN/VFN £8.50
87 VF/NM £14
88 FN/VFN £7.50
88 VF/NM £14
89 FN/VFN £8.50
89 VFN £12.50
90 VG £8
90 FN/VFN £8.50
91 VFN £12.50
92 VFN £13
94 VF/NM £13
95 FN/VFN £8.50
95 VFN £13
96 FN/VFN £8.50
96 VF/NM £14
97 FN/VFN £8.50
97 VF/NM £14
98 VFN £12.50
99 FN/VFN £8.50
100 FN/VFN £16
101 FN £7.50
101 VFN £12

THOR
(JOURNEY into MYSTERY)
100 G £10
101 G £8
120 VG £12.50
122 VG £12
124 VG £12.50
125 FN £17
127 FN £14
128 FN £14
129 VFN £23
130 FN £9.50
131 VFN £23
132 VF/NM £25
132 FN £9.50
133 FN £14
134 FN £18
135 FN+ £15
135 VFN+ £23
136 VG £8.50
137 VFN £24
146 VFN £7
149 VF/NM £16
152 VG £6.50
153 VFN £11
154 FN/VFN £10
160 FN/VFN £10
165 FN £13

WOLVERINE
(Regular Series,1988)
1 near mint £12.50
1 vfn £9.50
(cover slightly off-centre o/w as new)
2 ..... £4.50
3-6,9,11 ..... £3.95
13,16,17 ..... £2.95
18-23 Byrne,24,25 ... £1.95
26-34 ..... £1.75
43,44,47 ..... £1.75
50 GS,Die-cut cover .. £2.95
53,55-72 ..... £1.50
WEAPON X S/C £8.95
WOLVERINE JUNGLE ADVENTURE £3.25
WOLVERINE M/S TPB . £6.95
(Frank Miller)
WOLVERINE:Bloodlust . £3.95
WOLVERINE:Inner Fury £3.95
(Sienkiewicz art)
WOLVERINE:Killing ... £3.95

X-ECUTIONERS BOND SET
12-part crossover storyline running through X-Men, Uncanny X-Men, X-Factor & X-Force. Each issue comes pre-bagged with a trading card.
COMPLETE SET OF 12 ..... £17.50

X-FACTOR
1 1st printing £6.95
14 Simonson £1.75
16-18 ..... £1.50
20-23 ..... £1.25
25 ..... £2.50
26 ..... £1.75
29,31,33-35 ..... £1.00
36,37 ..... £1.25
38 ..... £1.50
41,42 Art Adams £1.00
43 ..... £1.25
44-47 ..... £1.00
50 LD,GS £1.75
54-59 ..... £1.00
72 ..... £1.25
73,74 ..... £1.00
75 GS £1.25
76-83,87-91 ..... £1.00
92 Hologram cover ... £2.75
93-99 ..... £1.00
ANNUAL 4 ..... £1.75
ANNUAL 8 pre-bagged £2.00
X-FACTOR:PRISONER OF LOVE £3.50

X-FORCE
1 1st printing £1.95
(pre-bagged with trading card)
1 2nd printing £1.50
2,4-6 ..... £1.50
7-9 ..... £1.25
10-15 ..... £1.00
16,17 X-Ecutioners ... £1.50
19-24 ..... £1.00
25 Hologram cover ... £2.75
27-30 ..... £1.00
ANNUAL 2 ..... £2.00
X-FORCE/SPIDERMAN: SABOTAGE TPB £4.75

WHAT IF Vol.1
27 VF/NM £4.50

UNCANNY X-MEN
4 G £25
(taped spine)
5 poor £25
7 VG/FN £24
10 VG £32
10 VG+ £32
10 FN+ £50
11 G £12.50
11 G/VG £14
12 FN £42
12 FN/VFN £55
13 VG £25
13 VG/FN £27
14 FN/VF £38
15 G/VG £16
15 VG £22
15 FN £28
17 FN £22
18 VG/FN £15
19 VG £13
19 G £8
19 FN £18
20 VG £14
20 VG- £12
(staples off centre)
20 FN £18
21 VG £12
21 FN £18
21 FN £22
22 VG £10
24 FN £15
24 VG/FN £12
26 VG £10
27 FN £22
27 VFN £24
28 VG/FN £23
29 VG/FN £12.50
30 VG £9
31 VG £7
33 VG/FN £9.50
36 FN £16
37 VFN £15
37 FN/VF £13.50
37 FN £12.50
38 FN £15
38 VFN £17
39 VG £6.50
39 FN £11
39 FN £18
41 G/VG £3.75
41 FN £9
42 FN/VF £11
43 VG £6
43 VG/FN £8
44 G/VG £3.75
45 FN £9
47 FN £9
51 FN £12.50
58 VG £9.50
60 VG/FN £9

UNCANNY X-MEN
62 G £3.95
64 VG £7.50
64 FN £9
65 FN £11
68 VG/FN £4.25
69 VG £3.75
69 FN £5.25
70 VG £3.75
70 FN £5.25
71 VG £2.95
77 VG £2.75
93 VFN £4.95
97 VFN £12.50
97 FN £8.50
98 VG/FN £6.95
98 FN £9
99 FN/VF £12.50
99 FN £9.50
99 VG/FN £7.50
100 VG/FN £8.50
100 VFN £20
(cents priced)
100 FN £9.50
101 G/VG £4.95
101 FN £11.50
101 VFN £15
103 FN £9
106 FN/VFN £12
106 VFN £13.50
107 VFN £14
108 VG/FN £9
108 FN £10
109 FN/VFN £10
109 VFN £11
109 VF/NM £15
110 FN/VFN £4.95
111 VF/NM £7.50
112 VF/NM £6.50
113 VFN £7.50
114 VF/NM £6
115 VFN £7.50
116 VF/NM £8
117 VF/NM £7.50
118 VFN £6.50
119 VF/NM £8
120 FN £7.50
120 FN £7.50
120 VFN £11
120 VF/NM £12
123 VFN £4.95
124 VF/NM £6
125 VFN £4.95
127 VF/NM £6
129 VFN £5.50
130 VG/FN £2.95
130 FN £3.95
131 VF/NM £6
133 FN £4.25
133 FN+ £4.95
(VFN, but cover away at staple brings grade down to FN+)
134 VFN £4.50
135 VF/NM £4.95
136 VFN £4.25
137 VF/NM £7.50
138 VFN £3.95
139 FN £6
139 VFN £8
139 VFN £9
140 VFN £6.50
141 FN £4.95
141 VFN £6.50
142 VFN £6.50
165 VF/NM £3.50
187,188 ..... £2.50
200 VFN £3.50
201 FN- £6.95
201 VFN £11
210 FN/VFN £4.95
210 FN £6.50
210 VF/NM £7.95

UNCANNY X-MEN
211 VFN £7.50
211 VF/NM £7.95
212 FN/VFN £12
212 VF/NM £15
213 VFN £13
213 VF/NM £15
214 Barry Smith £2.50
215-217 ..... £1.95
222 Sabretooth £4.95
223 ..... £1.95
226 ..... £3.95
227 ..... £3.50
228-232 ..... £1.50
233 ..... £1.95
235,237-239 ..... £1.50
241,243 Inferno £1.95
242 Inferno £2.50
244 ..... £1.50
245 Rob Liefield £3.95
246,247,249,250 .... £1.50
248 1st Jim Lee art ... £8.00
248 FN/VFN £4.95
259 ..... £2.50
260,263-265 ..... £1.50
267 VFN £5.50
268 VFN £7
271 VF/NM £3.95
272 VF/NM £3.50
275 VF/NM £4.50
276 VF/NM £2.25
279 ..... £1.25
281 New start.
1st printing. £2.50
283 ..... £2.95
284-293 ..... £1.00
294 X-Ecutioners song £1.50
295,296 X-Ecut Song . £1.25
297-299 ..... £1.00
300 Foil cover £2.95
301-309 ..... £1.00
Annuals
3 VF/NM £5.50
9 Art Adams £7.00
10 VF/NM £4.95
11 Alan Davis £1.95
12 Art Adams £1.95
13 GS,Atlantis £1.95
15 ..... £1.60
16 (1992) £1.75
17 (1993) £2.00
GIANT-SIZE 2 VFN £20
X-Men Special edition
1 (reprint of GS1) £6

X-MEN/TEEN TITANS
1 VFN £5.50

X-MEN: NEW X-MEN
Issue one is available with 5 different cover versions!
1A, 1B, 1C, 1D ea. . £1.25
1E (collectors ed) £2.95
Collectors Set £6.99
(Contains one each of A-E)
2,3 ..... £1.25
4,5 ..... £1.50
6 ..... £2.50
7,8 ..... £1.50
10-13 ..... £1.25
14-16 X-Ecutioners ... £1.25
17-20 ..... £1.00
21 creased cover £0.85
22,23 ..... £1.00
25 ..... £2.95
26-29 ..... £1.00
30 ..... £1.50

X-MEN ADVENTURES VOL.1
1-4,7 ..... £1.00

X-MEN UNLIMITED
1-3 ..... £3.50

CLASSIC X-MEN
3 LD £1.60
5,14 ..... £1.25
24,25 ..... £0.80
26 ..... £1.95
27 ..... £1.40
28,29 ..... £1.00
31,32,35,36,38,40 .. £0.95
47,49,73,77,78,80 .. £0.95

X-MEN SPOTLIGHT: THE STARJAMMERS
Cockrum art. 48 pages.
1,2 SALE PRICE £0.99

X-MEN:GOD LOVES,MAN KILLS
(Graphic Novel) £5.95

X-MEN:PRYDE OF THE X-MEN
(Graphic Novel based on X-Men animation film) ..... O/P

D.C. COMICS

ADVENTURE COMICS
304 FN £15

AQUAMAN Vol.1
30 FN/VFN £7.50

ATOM VOL.1
7 FN £40
29 VFN+ £35

AQUAMAN VOL.1
2 VG/FN £22
3 VG £12.50
4 VG £9.50
5 FN- £18
6 FN/VFN £16
7 FN/VFN £18
8 FN £14
9 VFN- £16
10 FN/VFN £16
50 FN £7

BATMAN
183 VF/FN £6
200 FN £32
219 FN £8
418 VF/NM £6.50

D.C SPECIAL SERIES
21 VFN £5.50
(Super-Star Holiday Special)

DETECTIVE
479 VF/NM £6

FLASH VOL.1
ANNUAL 1 VG- £30
ANNUAL 1 FN £80
114 VG £28
(114 has Big felt tip '6' on cover)
119 VG/FN £27
124 G/VG £14
134 G/VG £7.50
137 G/VG £30

GREEN LANTERN VOL.1
3 VG £60
9 G £9.50
11 VG/FN £22
12 VG/FN £22
16 VG/FN £16
17 FN £18
18 VG £12.50
19 FN £28
19 VG £12
23 VG £12.50
28 VG £7
31 VG £9.50
32 VG/FN £12
33 VG £10
33 FN £14
34 VG £11
37 FN £14
39 VG/FN £10
40 VG £33
43 VG/FN £9
44 VF/NM £18
48 VFN £17
77 FN £11
78 FN £7.50
79 VG £6.50
80 VG £6.50
82 FN £7.50
83 FN £7.50
85 VFN £20
86 VG £8
87 VG/FN £5.50
89 VFN £8.50

HAWKMAN VOL.1
1 G £20
2 VG/FN £25
5 FN £22.50
6 VG £7.50
6 FN/VFN £20
8 VG- £5
9 VG £6.50
12 VFN £10
17 FN £7.50
27 VFN £7.50

HELLBLAZER
1 VF/NM £6

HOUSE OF MYSTERY I
170 VFN £7.50

J.L.A VOL.1
8 VG £28
15 FN+ £19.50
25 VG £9.50

METAL MEN VOL.1
27 FN/VFN £13

MY GREATEST ADVENTURE
49 VG £6

SANDMAN Vol.2
1 ..... £17.00
5 ..... £7.50
11 ..... £4.50
13 ..... £3.95
15,16 ..... £2.95
27,28 ..... £2.50
32-35 ..... £1.50
36 GS £1.95
37-39, 43-45 ..... £1.50
47-49 ..... £1.30
50 GS £2.00
51-56 ..... £1.30

SHOWCASE VOL.1
30 FN £85
39 VG/FN £30

SWAMP-THING VOL.2
21 FN £9

INDIES

ALIENS Vol.1
1 1st print,VF/NM £20
2 1st print,VF/NM £7.50

ALIENS VS PREDATOR Vol.1
0 VF/NM £7.50
1 VF/NM £6

ARMORINES (Valiant)
0 (limited ed) FN/VF £14
(slight cover crease)

BONE
1-11 Reprints £2.25
12,13 1st prints £2.25
BONE COLLECTION Vol.1£8.95
(Reprints issues 1-6)

CAPTAIN ATOM (Charlton series)
88 VFN £9

FROM HELL
1,2 ..... £3.95
3,4 ..... £3.50

HARBINGER (Valiant)
2 FN/VFN £25
(Knocked corner)
3 VFN £30
4 VFN £40

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER (GOLD KEY)
18 VG £7.50

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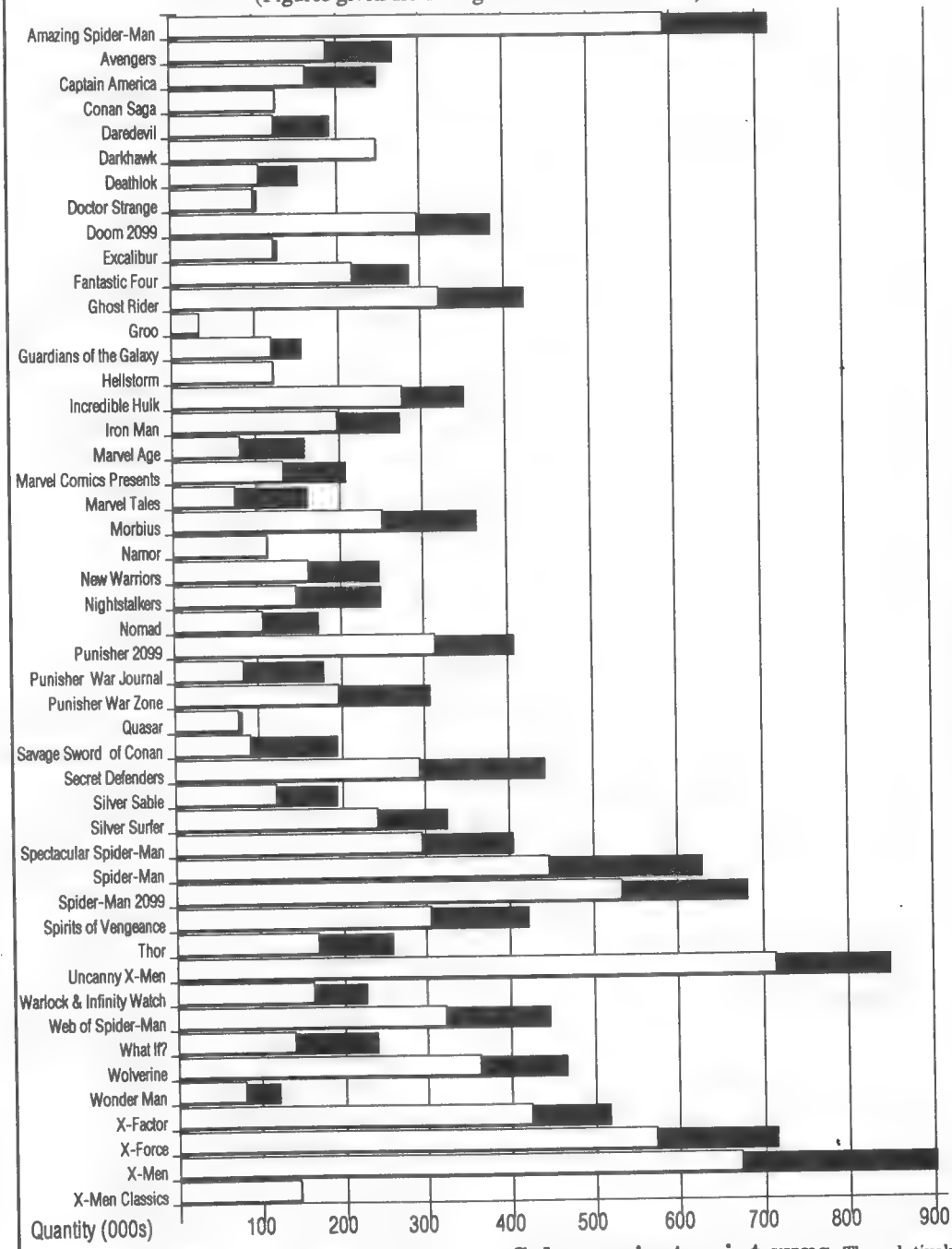
COMICWATCH

While others somehow avoid such, Marvel Comics publishes its sales figures on an annual basis. *Compiled by Simon Rogers*

MARVEL PRINT & SALES FIGURES 1993

Key: **white areas** = sales (direct sale & newsstand combined) **black shadow areas** = print run.
(Figures given are average based on annual sales)



Missing titles: Unfortunately there was no information available on a number of titles including **Punisher, She-Hulk, Alpha Flight** and **Moon Knight**.

Newer titles, such as **Cable, X-Men Adventures, Ravage 2099** and **X-Men 2099** did not have twelve months of published issues for an average sale to be obtained. These books and other new launches will publish circulation figures in October 1994.

New Launches: Many titles sales are artificially high due to figures received that incorporated either launch issues or special anniversary editions.

Spider-Man 2099, the fifth highest selling Marvel title on this list, was assessed on its first 14 issues.

High or low sales: The mutant titles popularity is instantly apparent, the five X-titles in the chart featured among the top eight selling Marvel titles of 1993. **X-Factor's** rise in sales is largely due to issue 92. Featuring the first part of the *Fatal Attractions* crossover, it sold 665,700, as opposed to its average sales figure of 423,808.

Sales against print runs: The relatively smaller selling titles do not appear on the chart with high levels of returns. These particular titles are direct sale only and are not subject to the sale or return policy that Marvel has in operation with newsstand outlets.

The majority of titles which sell through newsstands as well as comic shops carry between 60% and 75% returns on newsstand copies, hence the far higher print against sales figures.

Certain titles which are normally firm sale only, do occasionally find their way onto the newsstand, usually when a storyline overlaps into a newsstand distributed title, such is the case with **Quasar**, who was involved in the *Operation Galactic Storm* crossover. **Excalibur** and **Dr Strange** both featured in direct sale crossovers during 1993, with the **Dr Strange** Annual #2 was tied into three newsstand distributed titles.

The **X-Men**, which saw sales top 8 million with its first issue, averaged a 900,000+ print run, yet only achieved average sales of 672,000. **Uncanny X-Men** fared much better and on average outsold all other titles in the chart.

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MEDIAFILE

Associate editor Sarah Bolesworth looks at recent media coverage of comics and related product

IN THE April 1994 edition of **Diamond Dialogue**, Diamond Distributors' specialist retail monthly, results of the company's new "Genre Code" research were published.

Data for the *Market Share by Genre* table was gathered through the distributor's retail customer base (see details in *US News* this issue). The data was then collated by Diamond to produce a top selling genre chart.

Diamond's results showed that super-hero comics dominated the market with a sales share of more than 82 per cent. Fantasy was next with a mere 3.39 per cent — responding to which purchasing vice president Bill Schanes said: "If I'm a retailer, do I concentrate on super heroes or try to diversify?"

If I'm a retailer. And that is the major problem facing the industry. Bill Schanes has been in the business for over a decade. Comics retailers in America have an average lifespan of less than two years. Recently they've been dropping like flies, with over 300 a month (5% of the total market) going out of business last winter.

Because of the hobby roots of the comics business, by the time many new retailers even begin to understand the nature of the business, their debts through misplaced personal favourites result in bankruptcy. The distributors don't get paid for the previous few months of deliveries, or for the next three months' orders.

If anybody wants retailers to get their figures right, it's the distributors. They have to pay their bills to the publishers, whether they are paid or not. Albeit at the expense of smaller and more experimental publishers.

Genetics awry

Diamond's "Genre Code" ratings are a slice of the American market. But comics distribution and publishing in Britain is dominated by America too, but just because we're another country and culture doesn't mean to say that we should be advised to do any differently — or does it?

Sadly, Europe and even Britain *is* different. We're different because our economy is dependent on the strength of America's; like Ireland for the last half-millennium, our biggest export (comics) is talent — people, in search of work. Just as the best British filmmaking takes place in LA, the best British comics are created in the US, often in celluloid or video format.

Generics amok

The "genrefication" of the wider media has of course been underway for some time. Classifying product by genre, whatever *that* means, is a packaging and distribution solution and has little to do with whether sales are good or improving. There's no room for any new or different comics, films or books to get into the rigid, restricted market — but it makes them safer investments.

Traditional ideas (seen now from a European view, as quaint and old fashioned) about selling *lots* and *lots* of products still form the bedrock of the American commercial psyche.

So, we have the combination of distributors' needs (much more important in a country as big as the US) and publishers who print comics with their eyes shut to garner cash revenue.

Everything points to simple, homogenous patterns with volume the main aim.

If *publishing* is the aim, however, products tend be self-defining, driven by the creators and sell moderately but for a longer period.

That is what comics publishing was, until American publishers sniffled in the recession, got snapped up or taken over by Leverage Limited (any lever will do) and Europe caught a godawful cold.

British comics publishing has reached an all time low. Whatever the pros and cons of the UK publishers, there are talented people working (or not) in all of them — but notably little real production.

The London-based Dark Horse International was closed without notice last month. Marvel UK is venturing into promotional comics and Fleetway Editions is suffering more matches than matches. Witness their three Gerry Anderson fortnightly titles, **Thunderbirds**, **Stingray** and **Captain Scarlett**; now all merged into one monthly package.

News of the fools

The **News of the World**, Rupert Murdoch's Wapping-based tabloid, published a story linking the killing of a 12-year-old schoolgirl with "loner" — and comics fan — Stephen Wilkinson (April 3, 1994).

Under the banner headline, "Nikki stab man was Captain Marvel crazy", Stephen Wilkinson was "accused of stabbing 12-year-old schoolgirl Nikki Conroy to death in her classroom" and had allegedly "spent hours poring over violent **Captain America** comics".

Displaying its unerring nose for a non-story, the **News of the World** went on to quote a teenage friend of Wilkinson, who said: "He seemed totally normal. The only thing different about him was that he spent so much time with comics. He had a huge collection of them.

"He was obsessed with violent comics like **Captain Marvel, the Incredible Hulk** and **Spider-Man**."

Things are never so good that journalists and politicians can afford *not* to look for a scapegoat. After all, it's easier to blame violence on kid obsessed with comics or by video films than face the real issues hidden in those cans of worms.

The **News of the World**, however, is (as ever) as careless as it is quick to jump on a scapegoatist bandwagon. The headline was defamatory — Stephen Wilkinson's case has not yet been heard in court; and the Marvel copyright line was missed off the Captain Marvel illustration which accompanied the piece.

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Comics International invites you to submit your comics-related queries, both for your own enlightenment, and that of our general readership.

Stephen Martins,
9, Ashley Park, Bristol

Are you breaking the law if you advertise comics for a price when you don't have any to begin with?

The reason being, a store advertised in **The Price Guide Update** "coming soon" **Prime** 1 & 2 @ £2.50 etc,. Phoning up to enquire about these issues I was told, "we haven't got any at the moment, we ordered them from a bloke, but he hadn't delivered them yet. Phone back in a month."

This I did, only to be told "those are nothing to do with me, you'll have to phone back and talk to #### about them." After several more attempts, I now find I don't get any response at all.

Is this bending the law a little bit or does advertising things under "coming soon" cover them?

Layman to layman: If they didn't take any money from you, they hardly perpetrated any fraudulent deed. In fact, they actually hurt their own business by paying for an ad for comics they didn't have.(Dez Skinn)

Darren Jones,
32 Hampton Rd, Manchester

I wish to start my own small press anthology and would like to know if you could print a short overview of how a comic is produced. In particular, I would like to know how copies of pencils are made ready for inking, where this could be done and how much it would cost?

If you're worried about somebody else ruining your pencil artwork, Darren, try them out with faint photocopies to ink first. Printing: the biggest single cost, invariably outweighing all creative endeavours, even for large publishers. Most people start with photocopied editions and let things build slowly, both their audience and their own experience. Don't jump in too deep with commercial printers. Not only will it be expensive, but the minimum quantity will be high, and you'll be haunted by your early work in such abundance for the rest of your life! (Dez)

Stephen Howes,
22 Bracey Ave, Norwich

IT brought great sadness into my life to find out that **Mad UK** finished after its January 1994 issue. Why exactly is this?

Having collected it for more years than I dare admit to, it's like losing a well trusted friend and I'd appreciate an explanation for its demise!

Having existed in this country since 1959 (an amazing 34½ year run) it surely warrants a small epitaph? C'mon, Dez, explanation please? (You, if anyone, must be sad to see it go?)

*OK, you've twisted my arm. In brief, **MAD** had three editors of its UK edition. David Climie started the ball rolling, it was passed on to me (circa 1975) and spent its last 15 or so years in the capable hands of Ron Letchford. Ron went from handling production to editorial to publishing the title. But it was later sold to a larger publisher who, possibly through lack of experience when facing falling sales, switched trade terms from the now traditional sale-or-return to firm only. This means newsagents got stuck with any shelf copies which warrant purchased. Worsening matters, the cover price also increased.*

Downward spiral time, even though the title was quickly switched back to sale or return, it was too late, orders had already plummeted.

*Also, **MAD** was fast becoming outdated. It had survived a young whipper-snapper's attack on its teen audience through **National Lampoon** in the States, but as the formulaic approach grew stale in Britain, the more contemporary approach of **Viz** settled its fate.*

In David's, Ron's and my defence, we were tightly bound by American (Bill Gaines) dictates. No paid ads, no merchandising and no new editorial which was out of style with the parent look.

Final sales were said to be below 10,000 on cancellation, so it seems unlikely anybody will want to pick up the rights on what was once Number One in a Field of One.

I'd have loved to have revamped it but, What -- Me Worry? (Dez)

David Gentle, 11 School Rd,
Romsey, Hampshire

A while back I remember reading about a group called the Society for Strip Illustration. I also remember reading that they held some sort of open evening for artists to air their work to the comic purchasing [illegible].

I gave up my attempts at being an artist a while ago to concentrate on writing, so I was wondering if there is a similar version of the above event for writers?

The problem for me and others like me, is that I have no professional experience. This makes me completely unsaleable to editors, which stops me getting any work and, therefore, experience. Where do I start?

The SSI now renamed CCG (Comic Creators Guild) caters for writers as well as artists and holds informal monthly meetings at 7, Dilke Street, Chelsea, London SW3. Write to the secretary at that address for more information.

*Careerwise, there's a glut of professional creators short of work right now, so it's tougher than ever. But I've always recommended looking for work anywhere. Don't start with Batman or Judge Dredd samples. Try local papers, church magazines, anything that can help you build a portfolio of **printed** work and maybe pay you something as you practise your craft in print.*

Editors are always more impressed by published work. At least they can then assume you understand deadlines and somebody else liked your work! (Dez)

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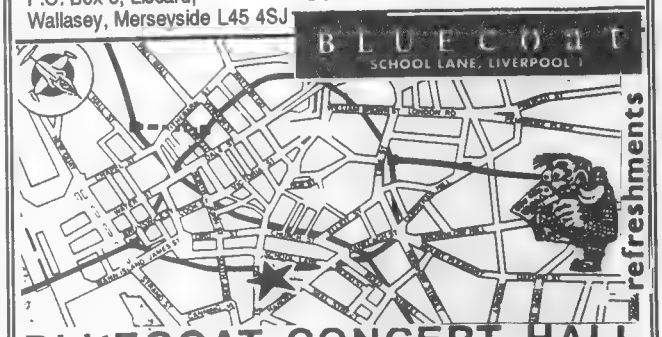

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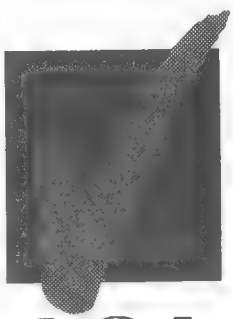

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ASA

RANSON NOTES

A monthly column in which leading comics artist Arthur Ranson examines the social impact, artistic content and foibles of contemporary comics and their creators.

THERE used to be a comic-book hero called *Freelance*. An impressively dashing name for a ditto figure. Had he been called *Self Employed*, reader interest would have dipped is my guess. As a title, *Self Employed* — with its suggestion of a tax-dodging onanist — fails to lift the spirits. If my own spirits were elevated by a metre or two, they would still leave me looking at the stitching on the bottom of carpet-underlay. I've got the miseries.

Working at home alone has advantages — office whip-rounds aren't frequent or grudged, there is no pressing need to wash armpits or shave, chin or armpits.

But there are only domestic pets to share one's problems with and little therapeutic value in confiding in goldfish. The cats took one look and left, probably to visit friends. "Just had to get out. He's in such a mood!"

Having posted another seven pages of **Buttonman II** only two days behind schedule, I should feel better than this. Completing an episode, even if only one of sixteen, usually lightens my step and I need no-one else to tell me what a clever fellow I am. This is the good time, before I see it in print.

Today, though, I need a sympathetic ear. If it were attached to a caring head with a kindly body, so much the better. The only ears I've seen today were under a police helmet.

The policeman wearing it called advising me to move to the back of the house because a "suspicious package" had been found outside the prison across the road. He was friendly but brief. Before I could ask him what comics he read as a child he was off to await the bomb squad. Crouching over a desk all day can mar one's health but nothing that leads to burial in a shoebox.

So, in the best Dale Carnegie tradition, I am compiling reasons to be cheerful. (I was at art-school with Ian Dury who wrote ' Reasons to be Cheerful'. Isn't that interesting?)

1: The question I failed to put to the bobby, I had put to a group in the pub recently. It was wonderful how animated the conversation became. Even the saloon-bar wet-blanket brightened at memories of Greyfriars, St. Jim's and Sexton Blake. At seventy-odd he still felt miffed that his mum chucked out his collection of **The Magnet**. Another guy was in torment, being unable to recall the hero whose assistant was called *Clicky Ba*. I couldn't remember. Or the name of *Tough of the Track*. One day gnarled old men will be sitting round trying to get the proper names of Beast, Cyclops, Iceman, Angel and Marvel Girl.

For many people comics are where they first come across the significant story. Myth, literature, story telling, seems to be a necessary part of the human experience and its discovery by an individual has a lasting effect.

95% of people can recall 89.5% more characters from comics read when young than from all the novels read between 23 and 71 years old.

You can take these figures as reliable because I only just made them up. Those who make comics do it for the fabulous wealth and lasting fame it brings but there is also the small pleasure to be had from the idea that some reader at an impressionable age will treasure a gag, a drawing, a character, or a story for the rest of their lives.

2: Letterers. It seems ages since I cursed ill-shaped letters or raged at patches covering vital visual information. I once tried to teach myself lettering but lacked the character for it.

Dave Gibbons and Steve Parkhouse do their own, I've seen. Steadier types I suppose. Sound effects I do myself but am happy now to let real letterers do their job. It could be my girlish nature but it is Annie Parkhouse and Elitta Fell whose work I've particularly noticed in native born lettering. Not just the letter forms but the sensitive balloon and panel placement.

3: As a Germaine Greer groupie I'm also happy to report another female, **Mai The Psychic Girl**, cheered me up too. Published in English in 1989, Mai is still my favourite Japanese comic despite **Akira**. In four volumes it's a good read in quality and quantity. It is also the only comic my daughter, then — at 14 — the same age as **Mai**, really enjoyed. Now, coming on 18, my daughter has picked it up again as relief from college work. The art is credited to Ryoichi Ikegami but the disparity in style between figures and background make it a safe bet he didn't work alone. With something like 1200 pages who can blame him? This length enables the writer, Kazuya Kudo, to have a 'real' life for Mai as well as the fantastic adventures.

My local librarian may add it to his stock of graphic novels, if only to ward off accusations that "comics are only for boys".

4: Steve Bell in **The Guardian** always makes me feel better. Great wit, drawing and irreverence. Once (in the late '70s?) or twice, when the S.S.I., now C.C.G., looked as though it might be a force to be reckoned with, Steve Bell turned up at the meetings. I think he won Best Newspaper Humour Strip once. He still would if there was one.

5: A drawing of an old helicopter being confronted by a massive, gun-bearing, anti-grav defence vehicle. By Robin Smith, it was in the Judge Dredd *The Sugar Beat* story. The art was credited to Robin Smith and Steve White, but I couldn't tell the difference between it and Robin's usual stuff. All but one of that issue's 2000AD strips were attributed to more than one artist. Do we need penciller, inker, colourist credits now? Working alone it would be tempting to tease these group efforts if they didn't look so good. And they have someone to talk to when they are fed up.

Clint Langley, drawing *Dinosty*, was the only artist working on his own in this issue. 'Clint', like 'flick', is a word once banned from comics. With hand-lettering the visual effect of L and I can be to make U. I think Angus Allen made this up but he told me of a comic-book cowboy named Clint, who, riding ahead of his girl, failed to notice when her horse stumbled and she fell into a quick-sand. As she sank and he rode blithely away, she called after him, "Clint! Clint!"

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All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Where dollar and sterling prices (ie $1.50/£1) is stated, UK price is not the air-freighted import price, but instead denotes that the title will be nationally distributed approximately ten weeks later at a lower-than-airfreight price. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 80p.

Shipping dates given are usually one week before airfreight copies arrive with your retailer/mail order supplier. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Late shipping, cancellations and changes in content will be detailed in future issues of ***Comics International.***

Key to abbreviations used:

1 & 2 + 3	=	*Writer & penciller + inker*
sqbd	=	*perfect bound; squared spine; without staples*
b&w	=	*black & white content*
pc	=	*part-colour content*
hbk	=	*hardback (book) edition*
tpbk	=	*trade paperback, squarebound, comic size*
Xpg	=	*number of interior pages*

V = violence; N = nudity; S = sex

All comics are 32 page colour titles unless stated otherwise

SHIPPING: MAY-JUNE '94

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM

Cerebus 182 (Sim & Gerhard) *Mothers and Daughters Book Three — Reads, Part 8.* No information being released. $2.25

AC COMICS

Femforce 73 (Black & Heike) Paragon begins to work with Ms. Victory to develop her new mind powers. $2.95

AXIS COMICS

B.E.A.S.T.I.E.S 2 (Saltares) The origin of the mysterious B.E.A.S.T.I.E.S is revealed. $1.95

Dethgrip 2 (Smith & Callahan + Dzon) The relationship between Dethgrip and Tribe continues to unfold. $1.95

NEW **Nightvenger 1** (DiGesu & Thomas) Ongoing series introducing Axis Comics' dark night-time protector. $1.95

NEW **Quantum 5 #1** (Jolley & Phillips + Martin) Ongoing series introducing a reluctant band of super agents. $1.95

W 2 (McDonald & O'Connell) Old family from Japan comes visiting with explosive results. $1.95

BONGO COMICS

Simpsons Comics 4 (Vance & Morrison) Bart and Lisa find that their school is full of brain-dead substitute teachers. ... $1.95

CALIBER PRESS

Deadworld 10 (Thayer & Torres) King Zombie's reign as king of the dead could be coming to a close. b&w $2.95

Deadworld Chronicles: Dire Wolves (Yates) Every thing that has ever died, comes back from the dead, leaving a group of survivors an almost impossible task. b&w 64pg $3.95

Negative Burn 11 (various) Features *Mr Mamoulian* (Bolland); Alan Moore's *Songbook*; *Classics Desecrated* (Wheeler & Feazell). b&w $2.95

Realm 9 (Truax & Kowalski) Dom has been captured and imprisoned. The identity of the Redeemer is revealed. $2.95

Femina Two: More Dreamgirls (Haines) A selection of tasteful illustrations of women in men's jobs. b&w $2.95

NEW **Kilroy 0** (Pruett & Meyer) Scene-setter for a four-issue mini-series set for later this year. .. $2.95

CARTOON BOOKS

Bone 14 (Smith) Bone learns the intimate details of living on a farm. b&w ... $2.95

DARK HORSE

SHIPPING MAY 10TH

NEW **Aliens: Stronghold 1** (of 4; Arcudi & Mahnke) To veteran space traders delivering a special consignment to biotechnologist, Caspar Nordling, discover that things aren't quite right. Follow-up to **Aliens: Hive**. .. $2.50

Dark Horse Presents 85 (anthology) Featuring: *Star Riders* (Gagnon & Martin III); *The Eighth Wonder* (Janes & Plunkett); *The Painted Horse* (Johnson & Dringenberg) Mature readers. b&w $2.50

John Byrne's Next Men: Power 3 (Byrne + Webb) Reality and fantasy continue to collide as comic book heroes and villains battle the Next Men. Mature readers. $2.50

Out of the Vortex 8 (Barrett & Willis & Magyar) The Vortex alien battles with his most fearsome and nasty enemy in a place of no space or time. $2.00

SHIPPING MAY 17TH

Andrew Vachss' Underground 4 (anthology) This issue features new prose stories by Pam Noles and Scott Krupp and new comic art from Ted Naifeh and John Weeks. Mature readers. $3.95

Barb Wire 2 (Arcudi & Lawlis + Akin) Barb is hired to catch supervillain Hurricane Maxx, but another assassin keeps getting in her way. $2.00

NEW **Grendel Tales: Devil in our Midst 1** (of 5; Seagle & Mireault + Grist + Delaney) Introducing the latest Grendel, a man known only as Jonah. Mature readers. $2.95

Hellboy: Seed of Destruction 3 (Mignola w/Byrne) Hellboy, World's Greatest Paranormal Investigator learns the secret of the vampire frog creatures. Also chapter three of *Monkeyman & O'Brien*, by Art Adams. $2.50

Indiana Jones and the Arms of Gold 4 (of 4; Marrs & Duranona) Indy's South America adventure draws to a close as he confronts Francisca's crazed brother, Felipe. $2.50

Predator: Bad Blood 4 (Dorkin & Thompson) Predator versus rogue Predator, as the aliens send one of their own to stop the psychotic hunter. $2.50

Star Wars: Droids 2 (of 6; Thorsland & Hughes + Mushynsky) C-3P0 and R2D2 face an old adversary, Indobok. ... $2.50

SHIPPING MAY 24TH

Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal 3 (Warren) While the ADP struggle to solve the mystery of the disc, the enigmatic Knight Sabers returns. $2.50

Caravan Kidd Pt 3 #1 (Manabe) Starting the third part of Mian's story. b&w . $2.50

Danger Unlimited 4 (of 4; Byrne + Webb) The 1960 team announce their existence to the world and in 2060 the new team battle the menace of the Xlerii. 2.00

NEW **Enemy 1** (Grant & Schenck) Resolicited from 10/1993.$2.50

NEW **Martha Washington Goes to War 1** (of 5; Miller & Gibbons) The sequel to **Give Me Liberty** features Martha at loggerheads with the outlaw Fatboy Burger Corps. Mature readers$2.95

NEW **Mezz Galactic Tour** (Baron & Vosburg) One-shot featuring supporting characters from **Nexus**. $2.50

SHIPPING MAY 31ST

Aliens/Predator: Deadliest of the Species 6 (of 12; Claremont & Barreto) Delacroix is forced to undergo another genetic transformation at the hands of her kidnappers. $2.50

Catalyst Agents of Change 4 (Campbell + Ford & Hamilton + Glines) Grace battles Titan in a battle that devastates the Golden City. $2.00

Colors in Black 4 (anthology) Series of shorts from the Spike Lee title. ... $2.95

Classic Star Wars 20 (Goodwin & Williamson) The final issue sets the scene for the confrontation that ensues in *The Empire Strikes Back*. 48pg $3.50

Dark Horse Comics 21 (anthology) *Predator* (LaBan & Cobb); *Mecha* (Campbell & Perrin) $2.50

Hellhounds 4 (Oshii & Fujiwara) The National Police Agency prepares the Hellhounds' end. Then Midori discovers a horrifying secret. $2.95

NEW **Jonny Demon 1** (Busiek & Vokes + Patterson) Mini-series introducing the Hellzoner, Jonny Demon, a punk, would-be sorcerer with the inevitable attitude problem. $2.50

NEW **White Like She 1** (Fingerman) What happens when you put the brain of a Jewish lesbian teen into the body of a middle-aged black caretaker. . $2.95

NEW **Dark Horse Downunder 1** (anthology) Eddie Campbell introduces the best of Australian comics in this new showcase title. $2.50

Joe R Lansdale's By Bizarre Hands 3 (Barrett & Erickson) Adaptations based on horror writer's stories. Racism and murder are what leads Leonard and his friend Farto into the woods late one Friday night...$2.50

Rack & Pain 4 (of 4; Pulido + Jimenez & Morales) Rack and Pain go head-to-head with Morgue, a pile-powered new supervillain. $2.50

NEW **Titan Special 1** (Ford & Eury & Sprouse & Hamilton) Titan leaves Golden City and goes to work for the US government. Prequel to this summer's *Comics' Greatest World* crossover. Cover by Bart Sears. $3.95

X 5 (Grant & Mahnke + Palmiotti) X battles the Chaos Riders as Arcadia continues to burn. $2.00

DC COMICS

SHIPPING MAY 17TH

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight Annual 4 (Waid & Staton) *Elseworlds Annual.* What if Bruce Wayne had never accepted the mantle of Batman and instead, settled back to become a rich, uncaring millionaire? $3.50

Black Orchid 11 (Vertigo; Foreman & Guay + Woch) Black Orchid tells Nick about Sherilyn's death. Suzy escapes Free Country and goes in search of Junkin Buckley. Mature readers. $1.95

Deathstroke, the Terminator 38 (Wolfman & Renick + Blyberg) Deathstroke and Vigilante track down a murderer in the Middle East. $1.75

Flash 92 (Waid & Wierango + Marzan Jr) Flash becomes embroiled in *Zero Hour* as Iris Allen (wife of Barry) travels back to the 20th century with her son, the reckless, Impulse. $1.50

Hardware 17 (Milestone; McDuffie & Cowan + Rollins) *Worlds Collide, Part 2* (of 14). Hardware gets involved in the crossover as he discovers Fred Bentson's unique super power. $1.50

Legionnaires 16 (Waid & Gardner + Cramer) *Zero Hour* draws closer as the team are involved in some bizarre time experiments. $1.50

Sandman Mystery Theatre 15 (Vertigo; M Wagner + Seagle & Davis) *The Vamp, Part 4* (of 4). The Golden Age Sandman uncovers the truth behind the Vamp's murder spree. Mature readers. ... $1.95

Shade, the Changing Man 49 (Vertigo; Milligan & Bachalo + Buckingham) Kathy ponders her horrific past and her unpredictable future. Mature readers. $1.95

The Spectre 20 (Ostrander & Ridgway) Professor Hazzard is seeking a way to either control the Spectre or destroy him once and for all. $1.75

Star Trek 62 (Ryan & Whigham + Starr) This story takes place at the very end of the Enterprise's first five year mission to boldly go where no man has gone before. $1.75

NEW **Steel Annual 1** (Bogdanove + Ramos) *Elseworlds Annual.* Set during the days of slavery as John Irons finds himself sold to a plantation owner. 64pg $2.95

Superboy 6 (Kesel & Grummett + Hazlewood) Superboy must face the deadlier than ever Parasite, fresh from nearly killing Superman. $1.50

Superman: The Man of Steel 35 (L Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) The fall of Metropolis continues as Luthor continues to cause carnage. $1.50

Superman/Doomsday: Hunter Prey 3 (Jurgens + Breeding) Three-issue prestige series concludes with the inevitable fight between Superman and Doomsday, the monster that "killed" him. 48pg ... $4.95

Valor 21 (Busiek & Doran) Valor must repair the time line or the future will cease to exist but the Linear Men believe Valor should be removed from all time. $1.50

Wonder Woman 88 (Priest & Ross) Superman and Wonder Woman team up to unravel the mystery of Themyscira. $1.50

SHIPPING MAY 24TH

Batman 509 (Moench & Manley + Giordano) *KnightsEnd* begins. Bruce Wayne regains the mantle of Batman and starts a war with his replacement that becomes as obsessional as Azrael's "quest". .. $2.50

Batman: Shadow of the Bat 29 (Grant & Blevins) *Knightsend, Part 2* (of 10). Batman and Robin contact and recruit Dick Grayson

into their fight with Jean-Paul Valley. $2.95

The Demon 49 (Ennis & Dobbyn) The infernal birth of Etrigan's son and the opening of a porthole into the depths of hell. $1.95

Green Lantern 53 (Marz & Banks + Tanghal) Mongul continues pummelling the Green Lantern; only Superman can save the day. $1.50

Hawkman 11 (Messner-Loebs & Lieber + Magyar) Continuing the countdown to *Zero Hour*, as Hawkman battles Badblood to the finish. $1.75

Hellblazer 79 (Vertigo; Ennis & Dillon) *Rake at the Gates of Hell, Part 2* (of 6). Constantine's final battle with the First of the Fallen begins, and a race riot develops in London. Mature readers. $1.95

Icon 15 (Milestone; Bright + Gustovich) *Worlds Collide, Part 4* (of 14) Superboy drops in on the Milestone heroes to defeat Edwin Alva. $1.75

Justice League America 90 (Vado & Campos + Branch) *Judgement Day, Part 4* (of 6). The Overmaster plans to destroy the Earth and Captain Atom becomes involved in a battle which could end the League forever. $1.50

Kid Eternity 15 (Vertigo; Nocenti & Phillips) *A Date in Hell, Part 2* (of 4). The Kid and Chelsea go on a date and end up in the waiting room to Hell. Mature readers. $1.95

The Legion of Super-Heroes 59 (McCraw & Immonen + Boyd) Valor and Dawnstar rejoin the team, but another member is tragically lost. $1.95

Lobo: A Contract on Gawd 4 (of 4; Grant & Dwyer + Giordano) Lobo and Abbott Costello battle Gawd in his celestial fortress. Mature readers. $1.75

Lobo Annual 2 (Grant & Alamy) *Elseworlds Annual.* What if Lobo had been around during the glory days of the Wild West. 64pg $2.95

The New Titans 112 (Wolfman & Jaaska) Nightwing searches for Starfire in Brazil, only to discover a changed Koriand'r. .. $1.75

Superman 91 (Jurgens & Rubinstein) Lex Luthor really knows how to make a bang and Superman can't be in twenty places at the same time. $1.50

Xombi 2 (Rozum & Birch) The not-dead but not-quite-alive Milestone hero battles a psychotic Rabbi. $1.75

SHIPPING MAY 31ST

Adventures of Superman 514 (K Kesel & Kitson & McCarthy) Superman is helpless to prevent Luthor from releasing nerve gas throughout the city, with deadly repercussions. $1.50

Animal Man 73 (Vertigo; Delano & Pugh) Maxine appears on a chat show to promote her new church, while Ellen makes the difficult decision to leave her family for good. Mature readers. $1.95

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 62 (O'Neil & Wagner + McCain) *KnightsEnd, Part 4* (of 10). Bruce Wayne faces a dilemma as Lady Shiva turns him into the killer he has never been. $1.75

Blood Syndicate 16 (Milestone; Velez Jr & Chriscross & Hendrix) The Blood Syndicate find themselves in Metropolis and decide to have some fun — Superman has some other ideas. $1.50

Detective Comics 676 (Dixon & Nolan + Hanna) *Knightsend, Part 3* (0f 10).Batman and his team attempt to uncover more dirt on the Order of St. Dumas. $2.50

Gunfire 3 (Wein & Erwin + Garvey) Gunfire moves his industrial company to the United States and learns more secrets of his late father's past. $1.75

Justice League Task Force 14 (Waid & Velluto + Albrecht) *Judgement Day, Part 5* (of 6). The League face a death in the ranks as they are seemingly powerless to defeat the Overmaster. $1.50

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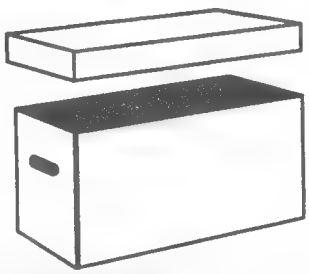

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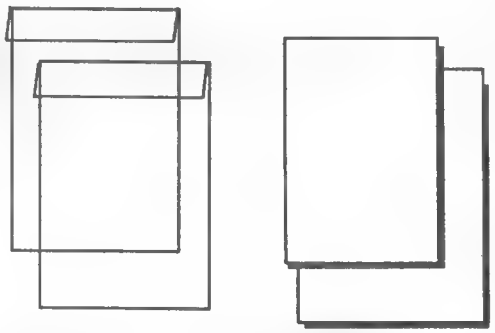

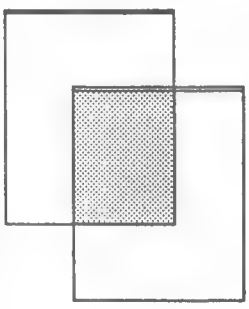

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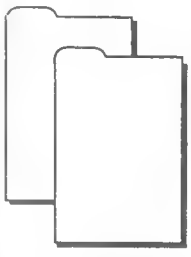

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Farmer) *An Elseworlds Annual.* A different 30th century and a different purpose for the teenage versions of the Legion. . . . $2.95
L.E.G.I.O.N '94 #68 (Peyer & Aucoin + Faucher) Vril Dox has to overcome racial tension and a traitor in his team. . . $1.75
Outsiders 9 (Barr & Pelletier + Campanella) The Outsiders are imprisoned by their old boss, Batman. Plus the Eradicator. $1.75
The Ray 3 (Priest & Porter + Jones) The Ray's worst enemy may -be his only salvation, but he first has to break him out of prison. $1.75
Sandman 62 (Vertigo; Gaiman & Hempel) *The Kindly Ones* continues. There is a murder, the return of an old friend and a very sinister surprise. Mature readers.$1.75
Shadow Cabinet 2 (Milestone; Washington III & Leon + Martin-brough) The superheroes with a mission to save humanity face a defeat, first time out. $1.75
Star Trek Next Generation 61 (Friedman & Skelton) Picard must find his missing crew without causing all-out galactic war with the Chalnoth. Resolicited. $1.75
Steel 6 (L Simonson + Bogdanove & Batista + Faber) John Henry Irons has to decide on whether killing the Colonel in cold blood or letting justice decide his fate. The problem is, Steel isn't at all convinced that justice will prevail. $1.50
Swamp Thing 144 (Vertigo; Millar & Hester + DeMulder) *Bad Gumbo, Epilogue.* Swamp Thing, now changed dramatically, travels to New York to confront an unwittingly dead priest. Mature readers. $1.95
Team Titans 22 (Jensen + Jimenez & Dodson + Blyberg) The countdown to Zero Hour continues as the new Team Titans are taken under government control and sent to destroy an entire country. $1.95
Witchcraft 2 (Vertigo; Robinson & Kristianson + Zulli) Mildred the Mother takes centre stage with her tale of Victorian England and young knight-sorcerer. Mature readers. $2.95

SHIPPING JUNE 3RD

Action Comics 701 (Kesel & Guice + Rodier) *Fall of Metropolis, Part 5* (of 5). Luthor dons the Kryptonian battle suit in one final battle with the Man of Steel. . . $1.50
Anima 5 (Witcover + Hand & Crespo + Ivy) Courtney is reunited with her mother; more of Animus's secrets are revealed. . $1.75
The Batman Adventures 22 (Puckett & Parobeck + Burchett) Two-Face is introduced as Batman and Robin attempt to stop the former district attorney in his tracks. $1.50
Books of Magic 3 (Rieber & Amaro + Gross) *Bindings, Part 3* (of 3) Tim Hunter battles for the lives of the Elves but may die in the process. Mature readers. . . . $1.95
Catwoman 12 (Duffy & Balent + Parks) Catwoman and Batman confront an arms dealer and are horrified when they find out who he really is. $1.50
The Darkstars 21 (Friedman & Collins + Branch) Former Green Lantern John Stewart is approached by the Darkstars' masters for a mysterious mission as the Zero Hour draws near. $1.75
Damage 4 (Joyner & Marimon + McWeeney) Damage battles Troll and attempts to stop him destroying all of Atlanta. $1.75
Doom Patrol 79 (Vertigo; Pollack & The Pander Bros.) Dorothy finds herself in a strange dimension full of yapping dogs. Mature readers. $1.95
Fighting American 6 (of 6; Rawson + McGreal & Laroque) Conclusion of a series which brings the fifties hero to modern times. $1.50
Green Arrow 88 (Dooley & Aparo + Fernandez) Green Arrow finds the welcome none too warm in New York when Martian Manhunter and Blue Beetle drop in, literally. $1.95
Guy Gardner 22 (Smith & Byrd + Davis) Guy Gardner loses his newest power ring and goes in search of an alternative. $1.50
The Huntress 2 (Dixon & Netzer) The Huntress's identity is discovered by a cop, but it seems as if he might use it against her. $1.50
Justice League International 66 (Jones & Wojtkiewicz & Dvorak) *Judgment Day, Part 6* (of 6) Despite defeating the Overmaster, the Leaguers discover that they do not function as a team any more. $1.50
Justice League America Annual 8 (Vado & Felchle) *An Elseworlds Annual.* Set in 2085, the legend of the Justice League is the only thing which stands between peace and the evil, Lord Faust. 64pg . . . $2.95
Looney Tunes 4 (Enyart + Koth & Wildman + various) Warner Bros. animated favourites in a monthly series of tales. $1.50
Lobo 7 (Grant & Semieks + Dell) Lobo rescues six talented individuals from certain death and assembles them to face General Angrad. It can only be a job for... The Losers. $1.75
Robin 8 (Dixon & Grummett + Kryssing) *Knightsend, Part 5* (of 10). Robin and Nightwing watch aghast as Batman battles himself. $1.50
Showcase '94 #8 (anthology) *Batman's Villains* (Grant & Kristian-san); *Zero Hour Prelude* (Jurgens & Massengill); *Wildcat* (Bergarza & Gnazzo) 48pg $1.95
Vertigo Visions: Dr Occult (Vertigo; Louapre & Sweetman) One-shot featuring the mystic manifest in both male and female forms almost simul-taneously. 64pg Mature readers. $3.95
Worlds Collide 1 (Washington & Leon + Marlborough + various) *Worlds Collide, Part 7* (of 14). Superman, Superboy and Steel team up with the Milestone heroes against a villain of *Crisis* proportions. 48pg . . $3.95

DEFIANT

Charlemagne 3 (Chichester & Pollina + Witherby) "Charlemagne" Smith and Michael "Glimmer" Alexander join forces against the dark. $2.50
Dark Dominion 8 (Wein & ?) Glimmer faces a deadly enemy in his quest to stop Schism. $2.50
Dogs of War 2 (Holcomb & Grey) Two of the Warriors of Plasm team leave to become mercenaries. $2.50
Good Guys 7 (Shooter & ?) The kids survive their toughest battle yet, but the Master still hasn't played his last card$2.50
Prudence & Caution 1 (Claremont & ?) Ongoing series about a young girl with the power to conquer worlds and her friend, a young man with a self-willed android arm. 48pg $3.25
War Dancer 4 (Weiss) War Dancer returns to Plasm, the place of his birth, and is shocked by what has happened there$3.25
Warriors of Plasm 10 (Wein + Shooter & Lapham) Chasm enters the Org and learns the secret of the Dreamtime universe.$2.50

DRAWN & QUARTERLY

Dangle 3 (Dangle) Three tales of the beleaguered cartoonist. b&w $2.95

EC COMICS

Two-Fisted Tales 8 (anthology) Stories by Davis, Wood, Kurtzman & Evans. . $2.00
Vault of Horror 8 (anthology) Stories by Kamen, Ingels, Davis and Craig. . . $2.00
Weird Fantasy 8 (anthology) Featuring stories by Feldstein, Kamen, Roussos and Wood. $2.00

ECLIPSE COMICS

Eclipse is believed to have ceased publishing through lack of funds, although reportedly the Claypool line is intended to continue as an independent imprint.

FANTAGRAPHICS

A Bitch is Born (Gregory) Reprinting classic tales from **Naughty Bits**. Mature readers. 96pg b&w $9.95
Acme Novelty Library 2 (Ware) New series featuring the adventures of Jimmy Corrigan, the world's smartest boy. Mature readers. b&w $3.95
NEW **Damnation 1** (Williams) Collection of J R Williams stories. Mature readers. b&w $2.95
Duplex Planet Illustrated 8 (various) More weirdness from the nursing home on Duplex Planet. Mature readers. b&w $2.50
NEW **Guttersnipe 1** (Head) All-new collection of urban tales from **Weirdo** contributor Glenn Head. Mature readers. b&w $2.50
The Island of Dr. Moral (Eaton) A story of scientific experiments gone awry, loose women and clowns. Mature readers. b&w 64pg $7.95
NEW **Martini Baton 1** (Bagge & Carrino) The return of the sick, twisted and offensive comic book character. Mature readers. b&w $2.95
The Manly World of Lloyd Llewellyn (Clowes) Reprints the earliest, rarest appearances of Dan Clowes' creation. 248pg. Mature readers. b&w $39.95
NEW **Savage Love 1** (Savage & various) A collection of autobiographical stories. Mature readers. b&w $2.95
Way out Stripe 2 (Swain) Ritualistic violence in the English countryside and the surprising contents of a very heavy shoe-box. Mature readers. b&w $2.75

IMAGE COMICS

Bloodstrike 25 (Extreme Studios) *Images of Tomorrow.* A look at what the team will be like in just over one year. $1.95
Brigade 25 (Extreme Studios) *Images of Tomorrow.* A glimpse into the future of the Youngblood spin-off team. $1.95
Freak Force 6 (Larsen + Giffen & Bridges) Mighty Man's most shocking secret is revealed in this origin issue. $1.95
Cyberforce 5 (Silvestri & Silvestri) Tensions mount as the Cyberforce members discover that they are being manipulated. . . $1.95
Codename StrykeForce 4 (Silvestri & Peterson) Guest-starring StormWatch. Stryker's men team up with the other covert team to defeat a double agent. . . . $1.95
Deathblow 4 (Lee + Choi & Sale) Cray and his SOG team face a dilemma when they have to assas-sinate a priest. $1.75
Deathblow 5 (Lee + Choi & Sale) Cray's world begins to fall apart as he discovers he has only a matter of weeks before the brain tumour kills him. $1.95
Gen 13 #4 (Lee + Choi & Campbell + Garner) Concluding part of the misplaced teenagers story. Original solicitation: October. $2.50
Kindred 3 (Lee & Booth + Ruffner + Regla) Backlash and Lynch must face each other in a death duel to prove their innocence.$1.95
The Newmen 2 (Stephenson & Matsuda) After recent events the team decide to take a well-earned rest. $1.95
Maxx 9 (Kieth w/Loebs) The story of Mr. Gone's gruesome past is revealed. $1.95
Prophet 7 (Liefeld & Platt) Prophet undergoes an amazing transformation and becomes a fugitive. $1.95
Phantom Force 2 (Kirby & various) Resolicited from October 1993. . . . $3.50
Shadowhawk Gallery (various) Pin-ups of Shadowhawk by many top artists including Larry Stroman, Mark Texeira and Mike Allred. $1.95
Spawn 22 (McFarlane) Spawn confronts Terry Fitzgerald as Overkill makes a dramatic return. $1.95
Stormwatch 25 (Seagle & Clark) *Images of Tomorrow.* A glimpse into the future of the team and how it will shape up in fifteen months. $2.50
Supreme 25 (Extreme Studios) *Images of Tomorrow.* Supreme as he will be in one year. $1.95
Team Youngblood 9 (Extreme Studios) Prologue for **Youngblood**'s return (Liefeld). $1.95
NEW **Violator 1** (Moore & Sears + Pennington) Three issue mini-series from the pages of **Spawn**, featuring villainous Violator. $1.95
WildC.A.T.S 11 (Claremont & Lee + Williams) Introducing the Huntsman, as secrets about Zealot's past begin to be revealed. $2.50

KITCHEN SINK

Captain Sternn: Running Out of Time 4 (Wrightson + Hendrix) Sternn and Gorney team up to defeat the dinosaurs but are sadly double-crossed. 48pg $4.95
Button Man: The Killing Game (Wagner & Ranson) Graphic novel reprint of the story which originally ran in **2000AD**. 96pg$15.95
Kafka for Beginners (Crumb & Mairowitz) A look at the work of writer Franz (**Metamorphosis**) Kafka. Mature readers. 176pg b&w $11.95
Twisted Sister Comics 2 (anthology) A selection of stories from some of the industry's leading female creators. Mature readers. 40pg b&w $3.50

LIGHTNING

Bloodfire 12 (Lawrence & Parr + Weed) Bloodfire is kicked out of the military services because he is HIV positive. $2.95
Judgment Day 9 (Payne + & Weed + Zyskowski) Justicar becomes the new leader of Judgment Day. $2.95
NEW **Lightning Comics Pre-sents 1** (Lawrence + Abrams + Mowrey & Weed + Zyskow-ski) Two spotlight stories, featuring villain War Party and slash hero, Dreadwolf. $3.50
Perg 8 (Abrams + Mowry & Weed + Zyskowski) Alli Moore dies and Elizabeth is reborn. $2.95

MALIBU

'Breed 5 (of 6; Bravura; Starlin) Raymond teams up with Rachel to defeat the Elsewhere hordes. Mature readers $2.50
NEW **Dreadstar 2** (Bravura Malibu; David & Colon) Kalla Dreadstar begins her quest to find the only man who can save the universe — her father. $2.50
Firearm 9 (Ultraverse; Robinson & Hamner + Lowe) Swan is on the trail of some of the most powerful ultras in the Ultraverse.$1.95
Freex 11 (Ultraverse; Jones & Herrera & Christian) The Freex come into contact with the Old Man and Contrary. $1.95
Hardcase 12 (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Benefiel + Vey) Hardcase and Choice fight their way through Aladdin's army to discover more secrets of Choice's past. $1.95
Mantra 11 (Ultraverse; Barr & Phipps & Pepoy) Mantra has to submit to Boneyard — or instead be killed by his wives. . . $1.95
The Night Man 8 (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hotz) Night Man must face a Werewolf, one of the richest men in the city. $1.95
Power & Glory 4 (of 4; Bravura; Chaykin) Gorski and Powell have become a problem, so LeStrange decides to kill two birds with one stone. Mature readers. $2.50
Prime 12/Ultraverse Premiere 3 (Ultraverse; Jones + Strazewski & Breyfogle) Rogue Prime takes on the strongest man in the world. $3.50

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Prototype 10 (Mason + Strazewski & Robinson + Whiting) The old Proto-type meets the new Prototype: the outcome isn't certain. $1.95
Rune 5 (Windsor-Smith + Ulm + Floyd) Rune's quest for a cure continues as Aladdin's role in his past becomes clearer and more sinister. $1.95
Sludge 8 (Gerber & Lopresti + Martin) A journalist is digging into Sludge's human past. $1.95
Solitaire 6 (Jones & Jones + Johnson + Kaalberg) The climax of Solitaire's battle with his father. $1.95
The Solution 9 (Ultraverse; Hudnall & Statema) Shadowmage is being hunted by unearthly wizards. $1.95
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine 10 (Mishkin & Kirk + Pallot) Visitors journey through the wormhole to join up with DS9. ..... $2.50
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The Strangers 11 (Ultraverse; Englehart & Hoberg + Eldred) The secret history of Yrial's island is finally revealed. ... $1.95
NEW **Warstrike 1** (Danko & Nguyen) Series with the misplaced mercenary thrown into a kidnapping conspiracy in South America. $1.95
Wrath 5 (Barr & Ammerman) Wrath teams up with the Freex after being sent to capture them. Can his country honestly think the children are a threat? $1.95

MARVEL COMICS

SHIPPING MAY 5TH

Adventures of Cyclops & Phoenix 3 (Lobdell & Ha + Vey) Jean and Scott are with Nathan as he begins to progress from his techno-organic virus. $2.95
Cable 13 (Herdling & Skroce + Conrad) Cable and Lee battle D'Spayre in the everglades. $2.00
Captain America 429 (Gruenwald & Hoover + Bulanadi) Diamondback does some digging of her own and runs straight into Cap's battle with Americop. $1.50
Conan Saga 88 (Thomas & J Buscema + Chan) Sword and sword-play. b&w $2.25
Daredevil 330 (Chichester & McDaniel + Collazo) *Tree of Knowledge, Part 5* (of 5). Daredevil, Captain America and Namor combine to avert the terrorist threat to New York City. $1.50
Darkhawk 41 (Fingeroth & Smith + Akin) Darkhawk teams up with Evilhawk to defeat a surprising villain. $1.50
Groo the Wanderer 114 (Marvel/Epic; Aragones + Evanier) Groo is involved in a Hitchcockian *Birds* play. $2.25
Namor 52 (Herdling & Isherwood) Namor and Andomeda search for the wreck of the Endurance. Meanwhile, Llyra carries Namor's child. $1.50
Namor Annual 4 (Bollers & Davis) Namor uncovers a HYDRA plot to start a war between Atlantis and the surface. . $2.95
Ren & Stimpy 21 (Slott & Kazaleh) From Nickelodeon's animated TV series. $1.95
Spider-Man 2099 22 (David & Leonardi + Williamson) What is wrong with Lyla? The origin of the hologram is revealed. Plus, the conclusion of Spider-Man's battle with Discord. $1.50
Spider-Man Classics 16 (Lee & Ditko) Reprints **Amazing Spider-Man 15**. $1.25
Spider-Man 48 (Mackie & Lyle) Spider-Man battles a blood-crazed Hobgoblin. . $1.95
2099 Unlimited 5 (Jones & Birch + Harper) Hulk vs the Vulx. $3.95
Uncanny X-Men 315 (Lobdell & Romita Jr) Emma Frost reawakens and has to answer some serious questions about what happened to Iceman. $1.50
Web of Spider-Man 114 (Kavanagh & Saviuk + Baskerville) Facade has the potential to be a major villain, especially when he beats the Wall Crawler first time out. $2.95
Punisher Summer Special 1994 (Lomax & Saichan) The Punisher returns to east Asia. $2.95

SHIPPING MAY 10TH

Amazing Spider-Man 391 (DeMatteis & Bagley + Emberlin) Spider-Man battles Shriek. Plus revelations concerning Aunt May's health. $1.50
Blackwulf 2 (Herdling & Medina + Anderson) With the original Blackwulf dead another rises to challenge the invading armies. $1.50
Barbie 43 (Slate & Cool) Ken repairs his old boat and the crew look forward to hi-jinks on the high seas. $1.50
Conan Classics 2 Reprinting **Conan the Barbarian 2** $1.50
Ghost Rider 51 (Mackie & Larroca) The return of the true Ghost Rider on the trail of sadistic killers. $1.95
Guardians of the Galaxy 50 (Gallagher & West + Montano) The final fates of the Protege, the Beyonder, Mephisto and Malevolence. $2.95
Marvel Comics Presents 158 (anthology) *Vengeance*, (Cooper & Jones); *Master of Kung Fu*, (Bollers & Nord); *New Warriors*, (Lazellari & Rosas); *ClanDestine*, (Davis & Davis + Farmer). $1.75
Night Thrasher 12 (Nicieza & Boller) Night Thrasher is still trapped in the deep south during slavery days. $1.95
Nova 7 (Nicieza & Marrinan + Steg-bauer) Nova helps a version of himself from the future and Firestar is put on trial as a witch. $1.95
Prison Colony 2 (Salick & Harris) Based on the forthcoming film. $1.50
Punisher War Zone 29 (Dixon & J Buscema) The Punisher escapes his prison but finds the jungle a far nastier place $1.95
Quasar 60 (Gruenwald & Heebink) Final issue as Quasar leaves Earth forever. $1.25
Ravage 2099 #20 (Mills + Skinner & Miehm + Adams) Ravage's battle with the Hunter continues, but despite his animal skills, Ravage finds he is no match for the master assassin. $1.50
Sachs & Violens 4 (David & Perez) Concluding part sees the duo agreeing to continue to fight against sleaze and corruption. $2.25
Secret Defenders 17 (Brevoort + Kanterovich & DeCaire + Hudson) Doctor Druid leads Cage, Deadpool and Shadowoman on a quest for the Moebius Stone. $1.95
Silver Sable 26 (Arcudi & ?) The Sandman recruits an old villain, The Trapster, to give him a helping hand on a mission. . $1.50
War Machine 4 (Kaminski + Benson & Gecko + Eklund) War Machine faces the Advisor, a truly unique villain. $1.50
Wolverine 83 (Hama & Kubert + Farmer) Wolverine goes to Japan, confronts Mariko's daughter — and Silver Samurai and Sunfire. $1.95
X-Factor 104 (DeMatteis & Duursema & Milgrom) Alex's problems stem from Mister Sinister as the arch-villain knifes another member of the Summers clan. $1.50
X-Men Adventures Season II #6 (Macchio & Heebink & Albrecht) Fox TV adaptation. Continuing the new season. $1.25
X-Men: The Early Years 3 (Lee & Kirby + Reinman) Repr: **Uncanny X-Men** 3. $1.50

SHIPPING MAY 17TH

Avengers 376 (Harras & Epting + Palmer) The Black Panther is back; but as friend or foe? $1.50
Avengers Annual 23 (Thomas & J. Buscema) Spotlighting Hercules as Pluto

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Coneheads 2 (of 4; Collins & Richmond) Mini-series adapting the movie of the same title. $1.75
Cosmic Powers 5 (of 6; Marz & Lim & Almond) Focusing on Tyrant as he holds former Galactus herald Morg captive. $2.50
Doom 2099 #19 (Moore & Broderick + Nyberg) Doom's quest for world domination leads him to the Savage Land 2099. $1.50
Excalibur 79 (Ashford & Lashly + Elliot) Nightcrawler's relationship with Amanda deepens and secrets are revealed about the new Captain Britain. $1.95
NEW **Galactic Guardians 1** (of 4; Gallagher & West + Montano) Mini-series spin-off from **Guardians of the Galaxy** #50. ..... $1.50
Ghost Rider 2099 #3 (Kaminski & Bachalo + Buckingham) The police mistake Ghost Rider for a rogue android. $1.50
GI Joe 150 (Hama & Gosier + Wallace) Cobra Commander takes on Snake Eyes in a near cataclysmic battle. 48pg ... $2.00
Incredible Hulk 419 (David & Cruz + Smith) A Skrull ambassador with a death wish comes to Earth and picks a fight with Bruce Banner. $1.50
Marvel Age 138 Featuring an advance preview of the **Punisher/ Batman** crossover and **Deadpool**'s new mini-series. . . $1.25
Marvel Tales 287 (David + Defalco & Harris + Colletta) Reprint of **Amazing Spider-Man** #279. ..... $2.95
Morbius 23 (Wright & Napalitano + Cabrera) Spider-Man guest-stars as the hunt for the serial killer continues. $1.95
Punisher 92 (Dixon & Heath) Punisher battles for his life in Fortress Miami. $1.50
Ren & Stimpy Summer Jobs Special (Boyett & Mitchroney) special featuring the animated chihuahua and one *fat* cat. $2.95
Rocko's Modern Life 2 (Lewandowski + Auck & Lazellari + Fields) Ongoing animated TV series adaptation. $1.95
Sabretooth Classics 3 (Duffy & Cowan) Reprinting the fourth appearance of Sabretooth. $1.50
Savage Sword of Conan 2232 (Thomas & Buscema) John Buscema pencils his version of the classic *Red Nails*. $2.25
Thunderstrike 109 (DeFalco & Frenz + Milgrom) Thor pops up to lend a hand after Eric is falsely accused of committing heinous crimes. $1.50
Transformers: Generation 2 #9 (Furman & Galan + Yanigher) Megatron and Optimus Prime form an uneasy alliance against the Swarm. 1.75
Warlock and the Infinity Watch 30 (Starlin & Oliffe) Warlock is in love, but who is the mysterious woman who has stolen his heart? $1.95
What If? 63 (Slott & Galan) What if the end of Iron Man's battle with the Living Laser had been decided by the readers? . $1.50
X-Men 343 (Nicieza & Adam Kubert + Ryan) The Beast discovers Mr Sinister's hidden lab and a terribly abused Threnody. . . $1.50
X-Men 2099 #10 (Moore & Lim) Lunatjca is back, but is she a foe or new friend? $1.50

SHIPPING MAY 24TH

Barbie Fashion 43 (Slate & Conner) Barbie enters the Indianapolis 500 race...? $1.50
NEW **Black Cat 1** (of 4; Kavanagh & Wildman + Baskerville) The Cat finds herself up against Cardiac in the first issue of her own mini-series. $1.50
Dr Strange 67 (Quinn & Tenney & Koblish) Clea tries to make some sense of what has happened to Stephen. $1.95
NEW **Blade: The Vampire Hunter 1** (Edginton & Wheatley Jr + Ivy) Series featuring the vampire hunter's ongoing battle with Dracula. $2.95
Fantastic Four 390 (DeFalco & Ryan + Bulanadi) *Nobody Gets out Alive, Part 3* (of 4) Travelling through time the Fantastic Four see their greatest triumph turn into their worst defeat and time starts to unravel for the four heroes. $1.50
NEW **Force Works 1** (Abnett + Lanning & Tenney + Garcia) Resolicited from October 1993. ... $3.95
DarkHawk Annual 3 (Fingeroth & ?) All action issue as Darkhawk battles Damek the Earthshaker. $2.95
Hellstorm 16 (Ellis & Gross) Hellstrom discovers the identity of his mother and the ramifications the facts may have. . . $2.00
Iron Man 306 (Kaminski & Hopgood + Mitchell) The Hulk and Force Works guest star in the climax to the Gamma bomb storyline. $1.50
Iron Man Annual 15 (Kaminski & Colan) Discover the real source of the Controller's influence and how Iron Man seeks to combat it. $2.95
NEW **The Lion King 1** (Weiss & More) Adapting the Disney feature film. 48pg $2.50
Marvel Comics Presents 159 (anthology) *Vengeance* (Cooper & Jones); *Hawkeye* (Yomtov & De-Caire); *New Warriors* (Lazellari & Rosas); *The Thing* (Garrahy & Collazo). $1.75
NEW **Marvel Masterpieces II #1** (of 3; various) Reprint of the trade cards in comic form. $2.95
Midnight Sons Unlimited 6 (Quinn & various) Doctor Strange versus the vampire, over three decades. $3.95
New Warriors 49 (Nicieza + Robertson & Jones + McKinney + Boyd + Mahlstedt) The team join forces with the She-Sphinx to defeat her adversary. $1.50
Nightwatch 4 (Kavanagh & ?) Nightwatch and Warrant must battle the deadly Gauntlet. $1.50
Northstar 4 (of 4; Furman & Carrasco Jr. + Akin) Concluding issue of the mini-series sees Northstar beating Arcade at his own game. $1.75
Official Index to the X-Men 4 (Ward) Index: X-Men 178-234. ..... $1.95
Punisher 2099 #18 (Mills + Skinner & Morgan + Palmiotti) Jake has an old villain as his new partner. $1.50
Punisher War Journal 68 (Grant & Haynes) *Pariah, Part 3* (of 4). Punisher versus Marvel superheroes. $1.95
Silver Surfer 94 (Marz & Lim + Christopher) Silver Surfer learns of Reed Richards' death and Doctor Strange's disappearance. $1.50
Spectacular Spider-Man 214 (Nocenti & Fry) Spider-Man and Typhoid Mary in a race to stop a woman abuser from striking again. $1.50
Spider-Man/X-Factor: Shadow-games 3 (Busiek & Broderick + Patterson) Three issue mini-series concludes with Spider-Man and X-Factor overcoming all odds. . .$1.95
William Shatner's Tekworld 23 (Marvel/Epic; Skolnick & Sullivan) Jake & Gomez help to host a holovision show, but villains decide to strike while they are preoccupied. $1.75
Thor 476 (Thomas & Wyman) Thor and the Godpack take it easy after the defeat of the New Men. $1.50
Venom: The Mace 3 (of 3; Potts & Sharp) The Mace beats Venom, but then must ask him for his help to halt the destruction of the Underground people. $2.95
X-Force 36 (Nicieza & Daniel) The Nimrod story concludes and X-Force has to make hard choices. $1.50

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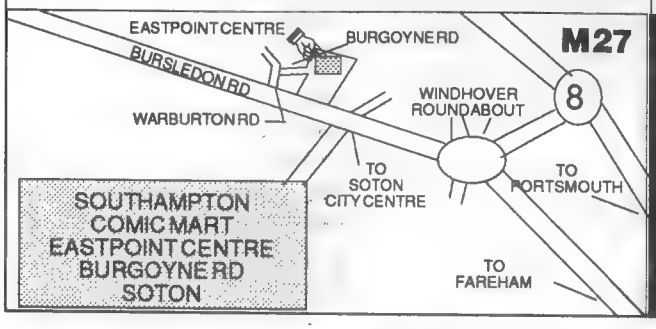

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X-Men Classic 97 (Claremont & Romita Jr + Green) Reprint, cover by Raney. $1.25

MILLENNIUM

Festival of Death 2 (Thomas & Norman) A loathsome creature is on a killing spree in Arkham. Herbert West re-animates the creature's nemesis. $2.50
Festival of Death 3 (Thomas & Norman) The conclusion of the series sees Cthulhu arriving for the festival via the sacrificing of a young French girl. $2.50
Vigil: Vamporum Animaturi (Loudermilk & Iverson) Continuing the adventures of a vampire cop and her strange mission to stamp out her own kind. 48pg $3.95

MIRAGE STUDIOS

Casey Jones Special 1 (Veitch & Eastman) Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' supporting character in his fight against crime. $2.75

NOW COMICS

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TOPPS COMICS

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NEW **Ray Bradbury Comics Special: Tales of Horror 1** (various) One-shot special showcasing some classic Bradbury horror stories. . . . $2.50
Jurassic Park: Raptors Attack! 4 (Englehart & Gil) The Velociraptors are loose in the jungle and in the mood for breeding, spelling the possible end of mankind. Concluding part. $2.50
NEW **Mars Attacks 1** (Giffen & Adlard) Series based on the trading card set. $2.95
Zorro 5 (McGregor & Mayhew + Mushynsky) Moonstalker proves to be a formidable adversary as his battle with Zorro continues in the carcass of a decaying beached whale! $2.50

TRIUMPHANT

Chromium Man 10 (Riley & Harris) Chromium discovers that even though he has defeated Governor Tarsak, the real threat remains. $2.50
Doctor Chaos 7 (Riley & Fox) Chaos faces another threat from his greatest foe, Mr. Death. $2.50
Prince Vandal 7 (Riley & Gallant) Vandal struggles to retain his humanity whilst trapped in a living nightmare. $2.50
Riot Gear 9 (Riley & Williams) Riot Gear in paradise, where they're taking a well-earned rest after recent devastating events. $2.50
Scavengers 11 (Riley & Walters) The Journeyman is recruited to help evacuate a planet targeted for elimination. $2.50

VALIANT

Archer & Armstrong 25 (Baron & Vosburg) Armstrong and his brother Gilad (the Eternal Warrior) hook up for their annual get-together. $2.50
Armorines 3 (Gonzalez & Calafiore + Ramos) Gunny leads a rescue team to search for their comrade, missing since last issue. $2.25
Bloodshot 19 (Van Hook & Vosburg + Dixon) Bloodshot faces a clown with an Uzzi sub-machine gun — who seems to have stopped laughing. $2.25
Eternal Warrior 25 (Baron & Vosburg) Concluding part of Gilad and Armstrong's celebration. $2.25
Harbinger 32 (Fontenot & Chen) Harbinger initiate their latest recruit, but will she make the grade? $2.50
H.A.R.D.Corps 21 (? & Levins) The team begins a new job. $2.25
Magnus: Robot Fighter 39 (Bedard & Calafoire + Mayo) New story arc set 17 years after the Malev war. $2.25
Ninjak 7 (Moretti) Ninjak's problems continue as the jet on which he's flying is hijacked at 20,000 feet above London$2.25
Rai & the Future Force 24 (Bedard & Ross) Beginning of a new story about the 41st Rai. $2.25
Second Life of Doctor Mirage 10 (Layton & Leeke + Branch) Mirage fights the Otherman for the soul of Carmen. . $2.50
Secret Weapons 12 (Fontenot & Grau + Rubinstein) No information has yet been released by the publisher. $2.25
Shadowman 28 (Hall w/Ryder) Shadowman continues his battle with arch-villain Master Darque. $2.50
Solar, Man of the Atom 36 (Van Hook & ? + Bollinger) Solar versus his oppo, Doctor Eclipse. $2.25
NEW **Starwatchers 1** (Bedard & Leeke + Giordano) Ongoing series set in Magnus's era, printed in 3-D Valiant Vision. $3.50
Turok: Dinosaur Hunter 14 (Baron & ? + Elliot) Captain Red and his bionisaur buccaneers invade a college campus.$2.50
Turok, Dinosaur Hunter Yearbook 1 (Baron & Cockrum + Mayo) Mon-Ark, Turok's foe returns — minus head — to haunt him. $3.95
X-O Manowar 31 (Gonzalez + Levins) Aric tries to put his shattered life back together, and will go to any length to achieve it$2.25

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS

Animerica Vol 2:5 (anthology magazine) Manga strips, interviews, news, reviews. 64pg. $4.95
Battle Angel Alita Part 3 #7 (of 13; Kishiro) Alita's first race in the Second League finally begins. $2.75
Bio-Booster Armor Guyver 8 (of 12; Takaya) Sho begins to wonder if he'll ever live a normal life again. $2.75
Maison Ikkoku Part Two 5 (of 6; Takahashi) Kyoko resists her parents' demands that she quit being a hotel manageress. 40pg b&w $2.95
Mermaid Scar 2 (of 4; Takahashi) Sequel to **Mermaid Forest**. $2.75
Mobile Suit Gundam 0083 #7 (of 13; Production cels) Albion test-runs the new Gundam prototype, Unit 1. . . . . $4.95
Street Fighter II #2 (of 8; Kanazaki) Based on the successful manga series. . . $2.75
Ranma 1/2 Part 3 #6 (Takahashi) Ranma still can't change back to being a boy and it's beginning to cause a lot of problems. $2.75
Lycanthrope Leo 3 (of 7; Kaji & Okamura) A Japanese version of *Teen Wolf*. A 17-year-old boy suddenly discovers that he is a werewolf. b&w $2.95
Venger Robo 7 (of 7; Nagai & Ishikawa) Concluding part, featuring the final battle with the metal sea beast. b&w $2.75
Ultraman Classic: Battle of the Ultra-Brothers 5 (of 5; Uchiyama) Reprints original series. $4.95

WARP GRAPHICS

Elfquest: Hidden Years 13 (Pini & McKinney + Tailefer) Grohmul Djun has targeted the Wolf Riders' territory. . $2.25
Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs 6 (Mangels & S. Blevins) The Wolfrider tribe is on edge: winter has left them with little food. $2.25
Elfquest: New Blood 17 (Pini & Blair) Younger members of the Wolf-rider tribe travel to Forevergreen in search of Windkin, who is being held captive by strange forces. $2.25

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Comics & Film/TV Advance List (page 3-7)

Here is our latest monthly advance list containing comic and film/TV magazines, including all the major comic publishers such as Marvel, DC, Dark Horse and an extensive range of independent comics from publishers including Image, Malibu, Valiant and Viz. Most items in the advance catalogue are listed eight weeks before publication date. If you order today, your order will be dispatched immediately we receive the goods. A new advance list will be sent to you with your package, plus a detailed delivery note, so you can easily keep up-to-date with the latest information regarding your order.

Film+TV and Merchandise (page 8-10)

This is just a selection of the wide variety of film and TV related items available through our mail order service. We stock a complete range of books, action figures, model kits, toys and videos on Aliens , Batman, Dr. Who, Gerry Anderson, Star Wars, Special Effects and Animation. We also offer new ranges of merchandise from Tim Burton's latest film Nightmare Before Christmas to Steven Spielberg's undersea adventure series Seaquest. You will also find a special Anime section listing books, graphic novels, magazines and videos.

Star Trek Summer Catalogue (page 12-15)

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GLOSSARY
ADULT - Adult Item
GN - Graphic Novel
H/C - Hardcover
P/B - Paperback
S/C - Softcover
TPB - Trade Paperback

MARVEL (M)

___ **Adventures of Cyclops and Phoenix #4** £1.70
Final issue. (ADV CP)

___ **Alice Cooper: Last Temptation of Alice #1** £2.90
Sandman scribe Neil Gaiman teams up with illustrator Michael Zulli in this debut issue of Marvel's Music Comics in which Alice meets the sinister showman, a dealer of dreams. (ALICE)

___ **Amazing Spiderman #392** £0.90
Shriek and Carrion attack Spidey! (AMZSPID)

___ **Annex #1** £1.05
Annex, from the pages of Amazing Spiderman Annual #27, stars in his own limited series! (ANNEX)

___ **Avengers #377** £0.90
(AVENGER)

___ **Beavis and Butt-Head (Epic) #6** £1.20
(BEAVBUT)

___ **Beavis and Butt-Head Greatest Hits (Epic)TPB** £8.50
96 page reprint of the impossible-to-find, but not too difficult to understand, first four issues, plus new tasteless material, activity pages and super hero critiques. (BUTTTPB)

___ **Black Cat #2** £0.90
(B CAT)

___ **Blackwulf #3** £0.90
The main character died in the first issue, now times up for the rest of the team! (B WULF)

___ **Blade: The Vampire Hunter #2** £1.20
Blade confronts the Dark Lord, Dracula, in a vampire infested night club. (BLADE)

___ **Blaze #1** £1.70
Blaze returns in this all-new ongoing series written by Wolverine's own Larry Hama and featuring a multi-level, embossed foil-stamped cover! (BLAZE)

___ **Brats Bizarre (Epic) #4** £1.45
HEAVY HITTER title: Final issue features bound-in trading card. (BRATS)

___ **Break the Chain #1** £4.60
New quarterly series co-written by rapper KRS-One, is polybagged with an exclusive audio-cassette featuring the comic's dialogue, sound effects and music. (B CHAIN)

___ **Cable #14** £1.20
(CABLE)

___ **Captain America #430** £0.90
Americop vs Damon Dran, the Indestructible Man. (CAPT AM)

___ **Conan Classic #3** £0.90
Features 'Twilight of the Grim Grey God'. (CONAN C)

___ **Conan Saga #89** £1.30
Reprinting the vintage years of Conan the Barbarian. (CONAN S)

___ **Conan the Adventurer #3** £0.90
(CONAN A)

___ **Coneheads #3** £1.05
Part 3 of 4. (CONE H)

___ **Cosmic Powers #6** £1.45
Final issue. (COSMICP)

___ **Daredevil #331** £0.90
Features 'The Tree of Knowledge'. (DD)

___ **Darkhawk #42** £0.90
Excellent jumping-on point for new readers! (DARKHAW)

___ **Deadpool #1** £1.45
Marvel's mercenary with a mouth, begins his off-beat adventure with Copycat and Weapon X. (DEAD P)

___ **Doom 2099 #20** £0.90
Bloodhawk meets the lethal Latverian. (DOOM 2)

___ **Dr. Strange #68** £1.20
Guest writer this issue, Dan (Punisher) Abnett. (DR STR)

___ **Excalibur #80** £1.20
(EX)

___ **Exploits of Spiderman (Marvel UK) #22** £1.99
(X SPID)

___ **Fantastic Four #391** £0.90
Nobody Gets Out Alive and Sue watches her teammates fall before the power of Galactus! (FF)

___ **Force Works #2 (resolicited)** £0.90
(FORCE W)

___ **G. I. Joe #151** £0.75
(G I JOE)

___ **Galactic Guardians #2** £0.90
4 issue limited series! (G GUARD)

___ **Ghost Rider 2099 #4** £0.90
The most terrifying new villain of the 2099 universe is here- and he's after Ghost Rider. (GR 2C)

___ **Ghost Rider #52** £1.20
(GHOST R)

___ **Groo the Wanderer (Epic) #115** £1.30
(GROO)

___ **Guardians Of The Galaxy #51** £0.90
Yondu rejoins the team as Nikki Yellowjacket. (GUARD G)

___ **Guardians of the Galaxy Annual #4** £1.70
64 page special features The return of Rancor plus pin-ups and part 3 of Marvel's Future History Timeline. (GUARDAN)

___ **Hellstorm #17** £1.20
Satana returns! (HELL S)

___ **Incredible Hulk #420** £0.90
Has the Pantheon found the cure for AIDS? (IN HULK)

___ **Incredible Hulk Annual #20** £1.70
64-page special featuring the best and worst years of Bruce Banner's life. (INHULKA)

___ **Incredible Hulk : Future Imperfect TPB** £8.60
96 page special collecting the limited series which catapulted Hulk into the future.(INHULKF)

___ **Iron Man 2020** £3.50
64 page special features Arno Stark taking the reins of Stark International and the responsibilities of Iron Man.(IRON 2)

___ **Iron Man #307** £0.90
Stark is finally about to deal with who or what has been attempting to destroy him and Stark Enterprises. (IRONMAN)

___ **Machine Man 2020 #1** £1.20
48 page special reprints the 4 issue mini-series in which the Living Machine awakens after 40 years slumber and discovers that a few of his old enemies are still alive. Art by Barry Windsor-Smith. (MACHMAN)

___ **Marvel Age #139** £0.75
Features two covers: Punisher/Batman by John Romita and Klaus Janson and Fantastic Four by Mike Gustovitch and Don Hudson.(MA)

___ **Marvel Comics #160** £1.05
Vengeance, Haweye: The Amazing Journey, New Warriors and Mace. (MC)

___ **Marvel Comics #161** £1.05
Vengeance, Hawkeye, New Warriors and Mace. (MC)

___ **Marvel Masterpieces II #2** £1.70
Marvel's Greatest Heroes, Marvel's Greatest Painters, Fan's Favourite Card Series. They're all here. (MMP)

___ **Marvel Tales #288** £0.75
Reprinting Amazing Spiderman #280. (M TALES)

___ **Marvels #0** £1.70
Featuring the 8 page Human Torch origin story as well as some of the hottest sketches and designs in comic history.(MARVEL)

___ **Morbius #24** £1.20
Basilisk returns with a vengeance! (MORBIUS)

___ **Namor #53** £0.90
Son of Namor saga begins! (NAMOR)

___ **New Warriors #50** £1.70
Time and Time Again final part with glow-in-the-dark cover. (NEWWARC)

___ **New Warriors #50** £0.90
Time and Time Again final part. (NEWWARN)

___ **NFL Pro Action #1** £1.70
Marvel Comics and NFL team up in this four issue football spectacular bi-monthly .(NFL)

___ **Night Thrasher #13** £1.20
This issue features prologue to the new exciting events taking place in Night Thrasher! (NIGHT T)

___ **Nightwatch #5** £0.90
(NIGHT W)

___ **Northstar #5** £1.05
(NS)

___ **Nova #8** £1.20
(NOVA)

___ **Official Index to the X-Men #5** £1.20
Final issue covering the artwork of Uncanny X-Men #235-287. (I X MEN)

___ **Overkill (Marvel UK) #52** £0.90
(OVERKILL)

___ **Punisher 2099 #19** £0.90
Don't miss the dynamic debut of an all-new Punisher! (PUN 2)

___ **Punisher #93** £0.90
Cover by Bill Sienkiewicz. (PUN)

___ **Punisher : A Man Named Frank** £4.50
48 page special features Punisher in the American West! Art by John Buscema. (PUN MNF)

___ **Punisher Meets Archie: When Worlds Collide** £2.30
48 page special features the craziest crossover ever when the hero of Riverdale High School meets the meanest man in comics. Die-cut cover. (PUNARCC)

___ **Punisher Meets Archie: When Worlds Collide** £1.70
48 page special without die-cut cover. (PUNARCN)

___ **Punisher War Journal #69** £1.20
Punisher against the Marvel Universe! (PWJ)

___ **Punisher War Zone #30** £1.20
The epic conclusion to the 5-part Conan With a Gun. (PWZ)

___ **Punisher War Zone Annual #2** £1.70
Rosalie Carbone's homicidal Uncle Salvatore is back plus the return of Roe. (PWZ AN)

___ **Ravage 2099 #21** £0.90
(RAVAGE)

___ **Ren and Stimpy #21** £1.20
(REN S)

___ **Rocko's Modern Life #3** £1.20
(ROCKO)

___ **Sabretooth Classics #4** £0.90
Reprinting the classic Spectacular Spiderman #116. (SABRETC)

___ **Savage Sword of Conan #224** £1.30
Conan and the dinosaurs. (SAVAGES)

___ **Secret Defenders #18** £1.20
(S DEF)

___ **Silver Sable #27** £0.90
Man-Eater's on the prowl and the citizens of New York City are in deep trouble. (S SABLE)

___ **Silver Surfer #95** £0.90
Return to Earth part 3 of 4! (SILVER S)

___ **Spectacular Spiderman#215** £0.90
Witness Spidey's attempts to thwart the evil machinations of the irrational Scorpion. (SP SPID)

___ **Spiderman 2099 #22** £0.90
Introducing Ventura and she's out for revenge! (SPID 2)

___ **Spiderman #49** £1.20
Beware the Rage of a Desperate Man part 4.(SPIDEY)

___ **Spiderman: The Arachnis Project #1** £1.05
Special 6 part series to compliment the Spiderman exhibit at the Smithsonian. (SPID AP)

___ **Spiderman Unlimited #6** £2.30
64 page special brings together two favourite characters in one titanic tale. (SPID UN)

___ **Spiderman: Web of Doom #1** £1.05
Has the web-crawler finally gone out of his web-head?

___ **Tekworld (Epic) #24** £1.05
(TEK W)

___ **Thor #477** £0.90
Thunderstrike guests! (THOR)

___ **Thor Annual #19** £1.70
64 page special featuring Pluto and Loki and their diabolical plan. (THOR AN)

___ **Thunderstrike #11** £0.90
Guns in the local school and Bloodaxe lurking in the background! (TS)

___ **Transformers: Generation 2 #10** £1.05
The final battle between the Autobots, Decepticons, Cybertronians and the Swarm. (TRANS)

___ **Uncanny X-Men #315** £0.90
Colossus plans his escape! (X-MEN)

___ **Venom: Nights of Vengeance #1** £1.70
Foil-stamped, neon ink cover for this new series in which Venom and Vengeance are being stalked by a band of blood-thirsty aliens! (VEN N)

___ **War Machine #5** £0.90
(WAR M)

___ **Warlock & The Infinity Watch #31** £1.20
Warlock discovers the origin of Count Abyss. (WARL IW)

___ **Web Of Spiderman #115** £0.90
Live and Let Die part 3.(WEBSPID)

___ **What If ? #64** £0.90
48 page special: What if Iron Man sold out? (W IF)

___ **Wolverine #84** £1.20
(WOLV)

___ **X-Factor #105** £0.90
A major X-Men villain is utterly destroyed! (X FACT)

___ **X-Force #37** £0.90
Nimrod returns and his next target is poor old Cable! (X FORCE)

___ **X-Men 2099 #11** £0.90
(X MEN 2)

___ **X-Men #35** £0.90
(X MEN)

___ **X-Men Adventures Season II #7** £0.75
Time Fugitives part 1 of 2. (X MEN A)

___ **X-Men Classic #98** £1.05
Reprinting Uncanny X Men. (X MEN C)

___ **X-Men: The Early Years #4** £0.90
Don't miss the classic first appearance of the Toad, Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch and Mastermind! (X MEN E)

DC COMICS (DC)

___ **Action Comics #702** £0.90
Bloodsport returns to Metropolis. (ACTIONC)

___ **Adventures of Superman #515** £0.90
Massacre in Metropolis part 2. (ASUPERM)

___ **Adventures of Superman Annual #6** £1.70
An Elseworlds Annual in which the defenders of Earth strike back in one last desperate battle for justice! Cover by Mike Mignola. (ASUPERM)

___ **Anima #6** £1.05
(ANIMA)

___ **Animal Man #74** £1.20
VERTIGO title. (ANIMALM)

___ **Aquaman #1** £0.90
Aquaman is back fighting for American justice below the waves! (AQUA)

___ **Batman #510** £0.90
KNIGHTSEND: Part 7 of 10. Cover by Kelley Jones. (BATMAN)

___ **Batman Adventures #23** £0.90
(BAT ADV)

___ **Batman: Legends Of The Dark Knight #63** £1.05
KNIGHTSEND final part See the new adventure beginning this month in Robin #9. (BATMANL)

___ **Batman: Shadow of the Bat #30** £1.20
KNIGHTSEND Part 8 of 10: Batman vs Batman! (SHADBAT)

___ **Batman: Ten Nights of the Beast TPB** £3.50
Reprinting the harrowing storyline from Batman #417-420 in which the Dark Knight meets KGBeast! New cover by Mike Zeck and Phil Zimmelman. DC edition. (BAT TENDC)

___ **Batman: Ten Nights of the Beast TPB** £3.99
Titan edition. (BAT TENTT)

___ **Batman/Punisher: Lake of Fire** £2.90
Special issue features two of comics hottest heroes as they race against time to stop Jigsaw and a mystery villain from turning Gotham City's water system into a lake of fire! Art and cover by Barry Kitson. (BAT PUN)

___ **Black Orchid #12** £1.20
VERTIGO: Painted cover by Dave McKean. Adult (B ORC)

___ **Blood Syndicate #17** £1.05
MILESTONE title: Worlds Collide Part 13 of 14. (BLOOD S)

___ **Catwoman #13** £0.90
KNIGHTSEND : AFTERMATH part 2: Catwoman hunts Selkirk. (CAT W)

___ **Damage #5** £1.05
New Titans guest! (DAMAGE)

___ **Darkstars #23** £1.05
The countdown to Zero Hour continues. (DARK S)

___ **Deathstroke, The Terminator #39** £1.20
Deathstroke, Green Arrow and Vigilante each have their own reasons for going after Dr. Death. (D TERM)

___ **Deathstroke, The Terminator Annual #3** £2.30
An Elseworlds Annual in which the Earth is devastated by nuclear war, humanity is dead.....but, doesn't know it yet! (D TERMA)

___ **Demon #50** £1.70
This extra size and devilish 50th issue looks back at the untold tale of Etrigan from the 16th Century, when a mad pirate captain literally sailed to Hell to plunder Lucifer's treasure chest! (DEMON)

___ **Detective Comics #677** £0.90
KNIGHTSEND Part 9 of 10. The burning shards of Bruce Wayne's Batmobile rain on a savage battle between Nightwing and Batman. (DECT COM)

___ **Doom Patrol #81** £1.20
VERTIGO title: Masquerade part 1. (DOOMPAT)

___ **Flash #93** £0.90
Reckless Youth part 2 of 3.(FLASH)

___ **Green Arrow #89** £1.20
Green Arrow arrives in Gotham City, where he finds a kindred spirit in the villainous Anarky. (G ARROW)

___ **Green Lantern #54** £0.90
The countdown to Zero Hour begins for Green Lantern in a future Los Angeles! (G LANT)

___ **Gunfire #4** £1.05
(GUN F)

___ **Guy Gardner : Warrior #23** £0.90
(GUY G)

___ **Hardware #18** £1.05
A Milestone Title: Worlds Collide part 9 of 14. (HARD W)

___ **Hawkman #12** £1.20
The countdown to Zero Hour continues! (HAWK M)

___ **Hellblazer #80** £1.20
VERTIGO title: Rake at the Gates of Hell. part 3 of 6. (HELLBL)

___ **Icon #16** £1.05
MILESTONE title: Worlds Collide part 11 of 14. (ICON)

___ **Judge Dredd #1** £1.20
The star of 2000 AD storms America with an ongoing series of all-new adventures. (J DREDD)

___ **Justice League America #91** £0.90
Aftershocks part 1 of 3: The Justice League buries one of its own. (JLA)

___ **Justice League International #67** £0.90
Aftershocks part 3 of 3: Wonder Woman attempts to pull the team together long enough to complete a special mission. (JLINT)

___ **Justice League Task Force #15** £0.90
Aftershocks part 2 of 3: The Martian Manhunter and Gypsy experience an unexpected new twist in their relationship.(JLTF)

___ **Kid Eternity #15** £1.20
VERTIGO title: A Date in Hell part 3 of 4. Painted cover by Sean Phillips. (KID ET)

___ **Kobalt #3** £1.05
A Milestone title (KOBALT)

___ **LEGION '94 #69** £1.05
In a dramatic prelude to Zero Hour, titanic changes are taking place within LEGION! (L 94)

___ **Legion of Super-Heroes #60** £1.20
End of An Era part 3 of 6: The Legion teams up with its young counterparts, the Legionaires. (LEGIONS)

___ **Legionaires #17** £0.90
End of An Era part 1 of 6: This momentous story leads straight into Zero Hour and features the ongoing struggle to reshape reality in the 30th Century. (LEG)

___ **Lobo #8** £1.20
(LOBO)

___ **Lobo: In the Chair #1** £1.20
Lobo goes to the barbers and winds up victim of the infamous Winter Brothers. It's carnage all the way.(LOBO C)

___ **Looney Tunes #5** £0.90
Wile E. Coyote meets Marvin the Martian. (LOON T)

___ **New Titans #113** £1.20
(NEW T)

___ **Outsiders #10** £1.20
Final Blood part 1 of 2: Looker returns as vampire! (OUT S)

___ **Robin #9** £0.90
KNIGHTSEND AFTERMATH part 1: Robin's career reaches the crossroads as he begins to realise that he may no longer be needed. (ROBIN)

___ **Robin Annual #3** £1.70
An Elseworlds Annual: Robin is a young ninja in19th Century Japan! (ROBIN A)

___ **Sandman #63** £1.20
VERTIGO title: Neil Gaiman's The Kindly Ones continues with photo cover by Dave McKean. (SANDMAN)

___ **Sandman Mystery Theatre #17** £1.20
VERTIGO title: The Scorpion part 1 of 4: The stakes are high for the Golden Age Sandman when Dian becomes the target of the Scorpion. (SAND MT)

___ **Shade, The Changing Man #50** £1.70
VERTIGO title. Extra sized 50th special issue features 8 page pin-up gallery by a host of artists including Brian Bolland, Kent Williams and Mike Allred. Adult. (SHADE)

___ **Shadow Cabinet #3** £1.05
A Milestone title.(SHADOWC)

___ **Showcase '94 #9** £1.20
Special Zero Hour prelude. (SHOWC94)

___ **Spectre #21** £1.20
(SPECTRE)

___ **Star Trek #62 (resolicited)** £1.20
(ST)

___ **Star Trek Next Generation #62** £1.20
(STNG)

___ **Star Trek Next Generation - The Series Finale.** £2.30
64 page comic book adaptation coinciding with the historic 2-hour finale of the tv series, Star Trek The Next Generation. (STNG SF)

___ **Static #14** £1.45
World Collide final part! (STATIC)

___ **Steel #6** £0.90
Worlds Collide part 12 of 14: Disaster strikes when Rift forces Metropolis to merge with Dakota. (STEEL)

___ **Superboy #7** £0.90
Worlds Collide part 8 of 14: Metropolis and Dakota have merged. (SUPERMA)

___ **Superboy Annual #1** £1.70
An Elseworlds Annual: Robin joins forces with his super friends to defeat an evil tyranny.

___ **Superman #92** £0.90
Massacre in Metropolis part 1 of 2: The alien warrior Massacre returns to destroy the Earth. (SUPERM)

___ **Superman: Man of Steel #36** £0.90
Worlds Collide part 10 of 14: The powers of Superman and Icon are united to destroy the interdimensional menace The Rift. (SUPEYMS)

___ **SwampThing #145** £1.20
VERTIGO title: Swapm Thing is pursued by Nelson Strong, a hunter of big game and monsters. (SWAMP)

___ **Team Titans #23** £1.20
As the momentum builds towards Zero Hour, the Team Titans unearth secrets about the nuclear wasteland, Qurac! (TT)

___ **The Books of Magic #4** £1.20
A VERTIGO title: Death, from the pages of Sandman, guests! (BKMAGIC)

___ **The Huntress #3** £0.90
(HUNTRESS)

___ **The Ray #4** £1.05
(RAY)

___ **The Sandman: Brief Lives** £19.99
A VERTIGO collection as this deluxe hardback edition reprints Sandman #41-49 with cover and design by Dave McKean. (SAND BL)

___ **Valor #22** £0.90
End of an Era part 2 of 6: Valor rejoins the Legionnaires in the 30th Century. (VALOR)

___ **Vamps #1** £1.20
A VERTIGO title: Dracula meets Thelma and Loiuse when five sexy motorcycle-riding vampire women slay their master and set out for new found freedom and "blood" along America's highways. Cover by Brian Bolland.(VAMPS)

___ **Witchcraft #3** £1.70
A VERTIGO title: Adult. (WITCH C)

___ **Wonder Woman #89** £0.90
Cover by Brian Bolland. (WONDERW)

___ **Xombi #3** £1.05
Silent Cathedrals part 3. (XOMBI)

DARK HORSE (DH)
This month sees the start of a new 12 part weekly series called **Comics Greatest World.**

___ **Aliens: Colonial Marines #10** £1.45
The pulse-pounding conclusion as Lt. Henry comes face to face with the deadly leader of this system-wide Alien infestation. (ALIENCM)

___ **Aliens: Stronghold #2** £1.45
Sadistic experiments on an Alien chestburster? Big mistake!! (ALIEN S)

___ **Atlas #3** £1.45
(ATLAS)

___ **Barb Wire #3** £1.20
Chaos rules on the streets of Steel Harbor as Mace Blitzkrieg wreaks havoc.(B WIRE)

___ **Bubblegum Crisis: Grand Mal #4** £1.45
Conclusion to this near-future technothriller. (BUBC GM)

___ **Caravan Kidd part 3 #2** £1.45
(CAR KID)

___ **Catalyst: Agents of Change #5** £1.20
Special issue features a spotlight on Catalyst team-member Ruby. Cover by Jason Pearson. (CATA)

___ **Classic Star Wars: A New Hope #1** £2.30
Reprinted from the original Marvel Star Wars series, this is the first of two newly coloured, prestige format issues adapting the first Star Wars film. Cover by Art Adams. (CSTWARS)

___ **Comics Greatest World: Will To Power #1** £0.65
Debut issue of new 12 part weekly series: From the sewers to the rooftops Arcadia crumbles with violence! Cover by Bart Sears.(CGW WP)

___ **Comics Greatest World: Will To Power #2** £0.65
The dregs of Arcadia's denizens gather on the waterfront where anything goes and usually does.

___ **Comics Greatest World: Will To Power #3** £0.65
Who will triumph in Arcadia, the evil X or the hero Titan?

___ **Comics Greatest World: Will To Power #4** £0.65
Wracked with gang violence, constant rioting and bloody battles for power, Steel Harbor rocks, day and night. Cover by Dave Johnson.

___ **Dark Horse Comics #22** £1.45
Features Aliens: Mondo Pest starring the cigar-chomping tail-kicking Alien-hunter extraordinaire. (DHC)

___ **Dark Horse Presents #86** £1.45
Features Lawrence Watt-Evans' A Breath of Fresh Air and part 2 of The Eighth Wonder. (DHP)

___ **Enemy #2** £1.45
Cover by Mike Zeck. (ENEMY)

___ **Grendel Tales: Devil in Our Midst #2** £1.70
The workers are mysteriously dying at Ice Station Hellman, infected with a gruesome virus. Adult. (GREN T)

___ **Hammer of God: Butch #2** £1.45
Judah is in trouble. He's accidently destroyed the headquarters of Gang Ga-Ga! (HAM GOD)

___ **Hellboy: Seed of Destruction #4** £1.45
Ghosts, tentacles, fire, brimstone, paralysis, massive destruction-it's all in a days work for Hellboy! Cover by Mike Mignola. (HELL B)

___ **Hellhounds: Panzer Cops #5** £1.45
(HELL H)

___ **Indiana Jones and the Golden Fleece #1** £1.45
Indiana Jones searches for the fabled Golden Fleece and so does the entire German army, the Turkish secret police and the strong-willed daughter of a Greek cargo pilot. (IND GF)

___ **James's Bond 007: Shattered Helix #2** £1.45
Bond meets Bullock, a murderous monster of a man with bulletproof body armour surgically grafted into his skin! (007)

___ **Jonny Demon #2** £1.45
Meet an alcoholic vampire, an under-sized monkey-like whatsit, and a grim, gun-toting commando with the head of a Kodiak bear. (J DEMON)

___ **Madman Comics #2** £1.70
Cover by Mike Allred. (MADMANC)

___ **Martha Washington Goes To War #2** £1.70
From the talents of Frank Miller and Dave Gibbons. (MM WAR)

___ **Max Overload #5** £2.30
(MAX O)

___ **Next Men: Power #4** £1.45
Everything blows up this issue! (NEXTMEN)

___ **Out of the Vortex #9** £1.20
Steel Harbor's most explosive personality crashes the gates of the Cinnabar Flats installation as Motorhead finds himself under scrutiny! (VORT)

___ **Star Wars: Droids #3** £1.45
It's a deadly case of mistaken identity when C3PO and R2D2 become entangled in an illegal operation and are forced to enter a droid battle arena. (STWARSD)

___ **The Cop Movie Adaptation #1** £1.45
Can Max Walker, one of Time Enforcement's toughest cops, stop a nefarious plot to destroy the future? (COP MA)

___ **The Shadow Movie Adaptation #1** £1.45
The official adaptation of this years action packed movie starring Alec Baldwin as The Shadow. Art by Michael Wm. Kaluta.(SHAD MA)

___ **White Like She #2** £1.45
Adult. (WHITELS)

DARK HORSE INTERNATIONAL (DH)

___ **Aliens #25** £1.50
Features material from a chilling new novella Aliens: Matrix! (ALIENS2)

AARDVARK VANAHEIM (AV)

___ **Cerebus #183** £1.30
Mothers and Daughters Book Three. (CEREBUS)

BLACKBALL COMICS (BB)

___ **Blackball Comics #4** £1.45
This issue: Mr. Monster vs Trencher-Round Two! Cover by Simon Bisley. (BLACKBC)

___ **Radical Dreamer #1** £1.05
Max Wrighter faces physical death to become a Radical Dreamer! (R DREAM)

BONGO COMICS (BC)

___ **Itchy and Scratchy Comics #3** £1.30
Stressed and depressed by his high-risk job, Scratchy (the cat) decides to leave showbiz and find a less damaging line of work. (ITCHY)

___ **Radioactive Man #412 (4)** £1.30
We jump 196 issues to the early 1980's and a fight to the finish plus Simpsons trading card. (RADIO M)

BRAVURA (BV)

___ **Breed #6** £1.45
(BREED)

___ **Star Slammers #2** £1.45
(STAR S)

CONTINUITY (C)

___ **Armor #12** £1.45
Armor follows his kidnapped brother and sister into space. (ARMOR)

___ **Crazyman #2** £1.45
This issue: Giant Ragged Rabid Ratman returns! (CRAZYM)

___ **Earth #9** £1.45
Awaken the Slumbering Giant! (EARTH)

___ **Hybrids #5** £1.45
Megalith hands over the Hybrids to the US Government in Murder Most Foul! (HYBRIDS)

___ **Knighthawk #3** £1.45
Introducing Norman, the first major villain of the series. (KNIGHTH)

___ **Megalith #12** £1.45
(MEGA)

___ **Ms. Mystic #9** £1.45
Don't miss this vital chapter in the Intergalactic War saga! (MS MYST)

___ **Samuree #9** £1.45
(SAMUREE)

DEADLINE (DL)

___ **Deadline #63** £2.30
(DEADLIN)

DEFIANT COMICS (DF)

___ **Charlemagne #4** £1.90
Foxhunt part 6: Mindfox guests! (CHARLE)

___ **Dark Dominion #9** £1.45
Michael Alexander fights The Puritan! (DARK D)

___ **Dogs of War #3** £1.45
(DOGSWAR)

___ **Good Guys #8** £1.45
Glory from Warriors of Plasm guests! (GOODGUY)

___ **Prudence and Caution #2** £1.45
(PRUDCAU)

___ **War Dancer #5** £1.45
Billy Ballistic appears for the first time in full super-hero regalia! (WAR DANC)

___ **Warriors of Plasm #11** £1.45
Chasm on Plasm! (PLASM)

EC COMICS (EC)

___ **Crime Suspenstories #8** £1.20
(CRIME S)

___ **Haunt of Fear #8** £1.20
(HAUNT F)

___ **Incredible Science Fiction #8** £1.20
Formerly entitled Weird Science-Fantasy. (IN SF)

FLEETWAY (FQ)

___ **2000AD #890** £0.75
(2000AD)

___ **2000AD #891** £0.75

___ **2000AD #892** £0.75

___ **2000AD #893** £0.75

___ **Best of 2000AD #107** £1.00
(B2000AD)

___ **Captain Scarlet #14** £0.75
(CAPSCAR)

___ **Captain Scarlet #15** £0.75

___ **Captain Scarlet #16** £0.75

___ **Complete Judge Dredd: Law in Order #30** £1.00
(CJDLAW O)

___ **Judge Dredd Megazine #56** £1.35
(JD MEG)

___ **Judge Dredd Megazine #57** £1.35

___ **Stingray Vol 2 #9** £0.95
(STING R)

___ **Thunderbirds #64** £0.80
(THUNDER)

IMAGE (MG)

___ **Bloodstrike #11** £1.20
Will the true identity of the Overlord be revealed? (BLOOD S)

___ **Brigade #10** £1.20
Brigade returns to its Malibu HQ to find it inhabited by a strange visitor! (BRIGADE)

___ **Brigade #26** £1.20
Images of Tomorrow continues with a great jumping-on point for new readers. (BRIGADE)

___ **Code Name: Stryke Force #5** £1.20
A member of Stryke force is accused of being a double-agent.(STRYKEF)

___ **Cyberforce #6** £1.20
Ballistic discovers more about her sordid past than she bargained for! (CYBER F)

___ **Deathblow #6** £1.20
Introducing Sister Mary, the toughest nun in New York! (DEATH B)

___ **Freak Force #7** £1.20
Introducing Kill Cat! (FREAK F)

___ **Gen 13 #5** £1.45
The final explosive chapter. Don't miss it! (GEN)

___ **Kindred #4** £1.20
The stunning finale as the secrets of Kindred are revealed. (KINDRED)

___ **Newmen #3** £1.20
The amazing adventures of Byrd, Dash, Exit, Kodiak and Reign continue! (NEWMEN)

___ **Pitt #5** £1.20
(PITT)

___ **Savage Dragon #11** £1.20
The Fiend returns! (SAVDRAG)

___ **Stormwatch #10** £1.20
Battalion travels to Japan to battle Talos. (STORM W)

___ **Supreme #13** £1.45
Supreme Madness part 1 of 6: Supreme joins an unholy alliance with Zachariah Grizlock. (SUPREME)

___ **Supreme #14** £1.45
Supreme Madness part 2 of 6. (SUPREME)

___ **Team Youngblood #10** £1.45
(TYBLOOD)

___ **The Pact #3** £1.20
(PACT)

___ **Union #0** £1.45
A flashback to Union's native planet and the origin of Regent. (UNION)

___ **Vanguard #8** £1.20
Vanguard vs PITT! (VAN G)

___ **Violator #2** £1.20
Straight from the pages of Todd McFarlane's extremely popular Spawn comes Violator. From Alan Moore and Bart Sears. (VIOLAT)

___ **Youngblood #1: The Silent Edition** £8.60
Special edition of Youngblood #1 features the art work of Rob Liefeld, unfettered by word ballons or sound effects!

___ **Youngblood #6** £2.10
Continuing from Team Youngblood #9, Die Hard prepares to lead his forces against Cybernet. (YBLOOD)

MALIBU (MG)

___ **Firearm #10** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (FIREARM)

___ **Hardcase #13** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (HARD C)

___ **Mantra #12** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: Special Anniversary issue as The Strangers and Mantra teamup concludes! (MANTRA)

___ **Pantera #1** £2.30
Pantera puts on a killer concert for their fans, but are taken over by vampires. We're surprised the fans could tell the difference! (PANTERA)

___ **Prime #13** £1.70
ULTRAVERSE: 48 page special as Prime faces his two most dangerous foes! (PRIME)

___ **Prototype #11** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (PROTO)

___ **Rune #6** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (RUNE)

___ **Sludge#9** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: Special origin issue as Sludge finally learns the secret of his transformation from cop to creature. (SLUDGE)

___ **Solitaire #7** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (SOLIT)

___ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #11** £1.45
(DS9)

___ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Hearts and Minds #1** £1.45
Debut issue of an all-new 4 issue mini-series as Klingon ships surround DS9 and prepare for war with the Cardassians.(DS9 HM)

___ **The Night Man #9** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: Superhero vs Werewolf! (NIGHT M)

___ **The Solution #10** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: Cover by Dan Brereton. (SOL)

___ **The Strangers #13/Ultraverse Premiere #4** £2.10
ULTRAVERSE title.(STRANGE)

___ **Warstrike #2** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (WAR S)

___ **Wrath #6** £1.20
ULTRAVERSE: (WRATH)

MIRAGE (MR)

___ **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Vol 2 #5** £1.60
(TMNT)

___ **Usagi Yojimbo Vol 2 #8** £1.60
(USAGI YO)

___ **Ultraman #5** £1.20
(ULTRA M)

TOPPS (TP)

___ **Cadillacs and Dinosaurs: Man-Eater #1** £1.45
Something terrible and unstoppable is slaying the inhabitants of Jack Tenrec's home town! But is it Jack's own pet dinosaur Hermes that's responsible? (CADDINM)

___ **Hellspawn #2** £1.45
(HELLSP)

___ **Mars Attacks #2** £1.70
The devastation of the Earth continues in this bloodthirsty war of the worlds. (MAR ATT)

___ **Ray Bradbury Martain Chronicles Special Edition #1** £1.45
This special issue features two all-new adaptations of stories from Bradbury's classic Martain Chronicles anthology. (RB SP)

___ **Victory #1** £1.45
No bags, no gimmicks! Just cover to cover excitement in this stellar tribute to the memory of Jack 'King' Kirby. (VIC)

___ **Zorro #6** £1.45
(ZORRO)

VALIANT (V)

A spectacular new crossover begins this month when Ivar the Timewalker unwittingly opens up a portal from The End of Time that could destroy the Earth in **The Chaos Effect: Beta, Gamma, Delta and Epsilon.**

___ **Amorines #4** £1.30
A Chaos Effect Prelude special issue. (AMORIN)

___ **Amorines #5** £1.30
The Chaos Effect Delta crossover part 2 of 4 (11 of 18). (AMORIN)

___ **Archer and Armstrong /Eternal Warrior #26** £1.60
The Chaos Effect Gamma crossover part 4 of 4(9 of 18). (ARCHARM)

___ **Bloodshot #20** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Gamma crossover part 1 of 4 (6 of 18). (BLOOD S)

___ **H.A.R.D. Corps #22** £1.30
The Return of the Midnight Earl part 2 of 2. (HARDCOR)

___ **Harbinger #33** £1.45
A Chaos Effect Prelude special issue. (HARBING)

___ **Harbinger #34** £1.45
The Chaos Effect-Delta part 1 of 4 (10 of 18). (HARBING)

___ **Hard Corps #23** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Delta crossover part 4 of 4 (3 of 18). (HARDCOR)

___ **Magnus Robot Fighter #40** £1.30
(MAGNUSR)

___ **Magnus Robot Fighter #41** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Epsilon crossover part 4 of 4 (17 of 18). (MAGNUSR)

___ **Ninjak #8** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Gamma part 3 of 4 (8 of 18) (NINJAK)

___ **Rai and the Future Force #25** £1.30
(RAI FF)

___ **Rai and the Future Force #26** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Epsilon crossover part 3 of 4 (16 of 18). (RAI FF)

___ **Second Life of Doctor Mirage #11** £1.45
The Chaos Effect-Beta part 2 of 4 (3 of 18). (DR MIR)

___ **Secret Weapons #13** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Gamma part 2 of 4 (7 of 18). (SECRETW)

___ **Secrets of the Valiant Universe #2** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Beta crossover part 4 of 4 (5 of 18). (VAL UNI)

___ **Shadowman #29** £1.45
The Chaos Effect-Beta crossover part 1 of 4 (2 of 18). (SHADOWM)

___ **Solar, Man of the Atom #37** £1.30
Revenge Times Two final part. (SOLAR)

___ **Solar, Man of the Atom #38** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Epsilon crossover part 1 of 4 (14 of 18). (SOLAR)

___ **Starwatchers #2** £1.30
(STAR W)

___ **Starwatchers #3** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Epsilon crossover part 2 of 4 (11 of 18) (STAR W)

___ **The Chaos Effect: Omega** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Conclusion. (CHAOSEF)

___ **Turok: Dinosaur Hunter #15** £1.45
Return of Captain Red final part. (TUROK)

___ **Turok: Dinosaur Hunter #16** £1.45
The Chaos Effect-Beta crossover part 3 of 4 (4 of 18). (TUROK)

___ **Unity #2 TPB** £7.30
Reprinting Unity chapters 5-9. (UNITY T)

___ **Valiant Reader #2 1994** £0.60
Introducing every on-going Valiant title plus full story details.

___ **X-0 Manowar #33** £1.30
The Chaos Effect-Delta crossover part 3 of 4 (12 of 18). (MANOWAR)

VIZ COMMUNICATIONS (VZ)

___ **Battle Angel Alita Book 3#8** £1.60
(BAALITA)

___ **Lycanthrope Leo #4** £1.70
(LYCAN)

___ **Maison Ikkoku Part Two#6** £1.70
(IKKOKU)

___ **Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind Part Four #1** £1.60
The wait is over! Miyazaki's cautionary manga resumes at last! (NAUSICA)

___ **Ranma Part 3 #7** £1.60
(RANMA)

___ **Street Fighter II #3** £1.70
(STFIGHT)

WARP GRAPHICS (WG)

___ **Elfquest: Blood of Ten Chiefs #7** £1.30
At the Oaks Root.(ELF BTC)

___ **Elfquest: Hidden Years #14** £1.30
Shards part 5.(ELF HY)

___ **Elfquest: New Blood #18** £1.30
Forevergreen part 6.(ELF NB)

___ **Elfquest: Wave Dancers #4** £1.30
True Crown part 4.(ELF WD)

COMIC MAGAZINES (JW)

___ **Cards Illustrated #8** £2.30
Polybagged: Features include Topps Mars Attacks '94 and Skybox's Star Trek Masterpieces II. (CARDILL)

___ **Hero Illustrated #13** £2.30
(HERO ILL)

___ **Hero Illustrated Special Edition: Who's Who.** £2.30
Introducing 40 of your favourite comic book characters from DC, Marvel, Image, Valiant, Malibu and Dark Horse. (HEROILS)

___ **Previews Volume 4 #6** £1.20
Diamond's guide to the most up to date information on the comics scene. (PREVIEW)

___ **Wizard: The Guide to Comics #35** £2.30
Polybagged with free trading cards! (WIZARD)

FILM & TV MAGAZINES (FT)

___ **Dark Side July 1994** £1.95
(DARKSID)

___ **Dr Who : An Adventure in Space and Time #10** £2.50
This issue profiles The Daemons plus interview with writer/producer Barry Letts and director Christopher Barry. (WHO ST)

___ **Dr Who : An Adventure in Space and Time #9** £2.50
This issue profiles The Colony in Space plus interview with director Michael Briant and a tribute to artist David Bellamy. (WHO ST)

___ **Dr Who Classic Comics #22** £2.50
Includes free poster! (DRWHOCC)

___ **Dr Who Invision #51** £2.50
This issue profiles The Keeper of Traken. (DRWHOIN)

___ **Dr Who Monthly #214** £2.50
(DR WHOM)

___ **Dream Watch Bulletin #125** £2.50
(DWB)

___ **Famous Monsters of Filmland #204** £3.25
(MONS)

___ **Fangoria #135** £3.25
On the set of Sam Raimi's Darkman 2 and Darkman 3,plus make-up effects of Rick Baker. (FANGO)

___ **Film Threat #17** £3.25
Get the jump on this years movie season with this great guide to what's new in Hollywood. (FILM T)

___ **Filmfax #45** £3.25
This issue: Todd Slaughter, a look back at classic radio thrillers and Our Gang's Jerry Tucker. (FILMFAX)

___ **Star Trek Deep Space Nine Magazine #8** £3.25
(DS9)

___ **Star Trek: The Next Generation Poster Magazine #73** £1.80
(STNG PM)

___ **Star Trek: The Next Generation Poster Magazine #74** £1.80

___ **Star Trek: The Official Fan Club Magazine #97** £1.50
Features the first photographs from Star Trek: The Next Generation-the Movie.(STOFANM)

___ **Starburst #191** £2.20
A visit to the set of Stephen King's The Stand. (STARBUR)

___ **Starburst Special: #20-Star Trek Special** £3.95
All-Trek special interviews Harve Bennett and everything from William Shatner to saving whales plus episode guides to Next Gen. seasons 7 and 8 and DS9 season 2.(STARBUS)

___ **Stargate Movie Special** £3.25
Official guide to this years blockbuster SF movie Stargate starring Kurt Russell and James Spader and featuring some of the largest sets ever built for a film. (STARGAT)

___ **Starlog #205** £3.25
Includes articles on The Shadow, Star Trek The Next Generation and SeaQuest DSV. (STARLOG)

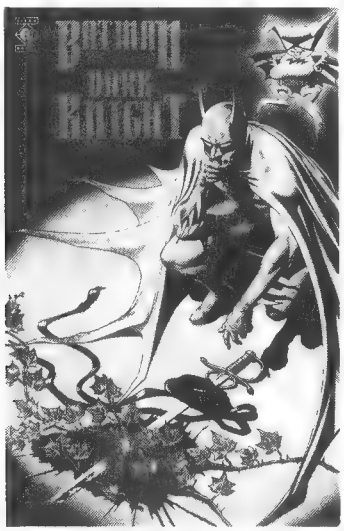
___ **The Shadow Movie Special** £3.25
Inside info on Walter Gibson's immortal hero The Shadow and his big-screen debut plus exclusive free Shadow promo badge.(SHAD MS)

___ **TV Zone #56** £1.95
Interview with Elizabeth Sladen from Dr. Who and a guide to the first season of Lois and Clarke. (TV ZONE)

COMIC BOOKS AND MERCHANDISE

COMIC BOOKS

GRAPHIC NOVELS



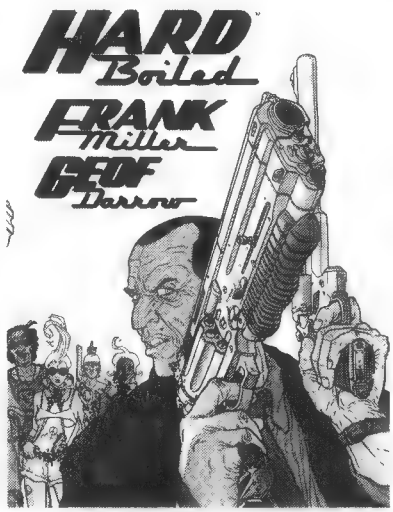
___ **Batman: Collected Legends of the Dark Knight** £8.50
Includes reprints of three thought-provoking Bat-tales; Blades, Legends of the Dark Mite and Hothouse.

___ **Batman Knightfall Part One: Broken Bat** £7.99
This special edition reprints the first epic story of Knightfall from Batman #491-497 and Detective Comics #659-663.

___ **Batman Knightfall Part Two: Who Rules the Night** £7.99
The conclusion of Knightfall from Detective Comics #664-666, Showcase '93 #7-8, Batman: Shadow of the Bat #16-18 and Batman #498-500.

___ **Cerebus: Flight** £10.95
Reprinting Cerebus: Mothers and Daughters #151-162 by Dave Sim and Gerhard.

___ **Ed The Happy Clown** £9.95
Winner of the 1990 Harvey Award for Best Graphic Album, here is Chester Brown's comic classic from the pages of Yummy Fur.



___ **Hard Boiled** £10.50
Thoroughly outrageous and violent from the talents of Frank Miller and Geof Darrow. Adult.

___ **Ren and Stimpy Show: Don't Try This At Home.** £8.95
96 page special reprinting Ren and Stimpy #9-12.

___ **Sandman: Game of You** £9.99
A collection of Sandman stories written by Neil Gaiman and illustrated by Shawn McManus, Colleen Doran, Bryan Talbot, George Pratt, Stan Woch and Dick Giordano.

___ **Shadowman** £6.95
Something mysterious is happening to Jack Boniface after dark! Plus #1 of Master Darque from the talents of Bob Hall.

___ **Sin City** £7.99
Sin City is the place-tough as leather and dry as tinder. Watch it burn! Story and art by Frank Miller.

___ **The Valiant Era Collection** £9.95
Special issue reprinting Magnus #12, Solar #10-11, Eternal Warrior #4-5 and Shadowman #8. Plus Eternal Warrior #1.

REFERENCE BOOKS

All books are hardcover unless otherwise indicated.

___ **Comics and Sequential Art by Will Eisner** £13.95
The skills of the comic book artist are explored in this fascinating volume by the universally acknowledged master of comic book art and creator of The Spirit, Will Eisner. (Paperback)

___ **Drawing the Human Head** £19.95

___ **Dynamic Anatomy** £19.95

___ **Dynamic Figure Drawing** £19.95
Burne Hogarth's highly acclaimed guides to drawing all aspects of the human figure. Of particular interest to comic book artists for its depiction of superhero anatomy.

___ **How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way** £9.95
Draw your own comicstrip! Stan Lee, the Mighty Man of Marvel and John Buscema, active and adventuresome artist behind the Silver Surfer, Conan, and Spiderman, have collaborated on this magnificent guide to creating your own superheroes.

___ **Illustrated History of Superhero Comics of the Golden Age** £18.95
Deluxe hardcover tracing the ultimate history of this super-genre (early 1930's-late 1940's) plus the origins of all your favourite heroes and villains.

___ **Illustrated History of Superhero Comics of the Silver Age** £17.95
Deluxe hardcover featuring all your favourite superheroes including Spiderman, Green Lantern, Fantastic Four, Wonder Woman, Thor and many, many more.

COMIC MERCHANDISE

Audio Tapes

___ **Adventures of Superman: Doomsday and Beyond** £8.60
The complete story, on two cassettes, of Superman's fight to the death with Doomsday and his triumphant return.

FILM & TV BOOKS

All Books are paperback unless otherwise indicated.

___ **Blake's 7 Programme Guide** £2.99
A complete guide to the BBC's highly successful science fiction series with full episode synopsis and beind the scenes on the making of the show.

___ **Bond and Beyond** £15.50
Illustrated guide to secret agents in film and television. Includes The Avengers, Matt Helm,The Saint and, of course, OO7 himself. (Hardcover)

___ **Book of Alien** £9.99
Titan Books highly acclaimed reprint of the first ever guide to Alien. This book has been out of print since 1980. Illustrated in black and white and colour. (See Film and Television Merchandise)

___ **Bugs Bunny: Fifty Years and Only One Grey Hare** £27.00
The story behind that 'wascally wabbit' and his costars Elmer Fudd, Porky Pig and Sylvester. Contains frame blowups in full colour. (Hardcover)

___ **Cartoon Friends of the Baby Boom Era** £15.50
An illustrated guide to the merchandise available throughout the sixties that accompanyed shows such as Casper the Friendly Ghost, The Flintstones, The Jetsons, Jonny Quest and many more!

___ **Chuck Amuck!** £9.99
The biography of animator extraordinaire, Chuck Jones and, in particular, his years at the Warner Brothers Studio. Illustrated by the author with a preface by Steven Spielberg. (Hardcover)

___ **Clive Barker's Nightbreed** £9.99
Behind the scenes of Clive Barker's Nightbreed.

___ **Clive Barker's Nightbreed Chronicles** £5.95
By Clive Barker and Stephen Jones.

___ **Clive Barker's Hellraiser Chronicles** £8.99
By Clive Barker and Stephen Jones.

___ **Complete Avengers** £12.99
Dave Rogers' affectionate study of the cult television series that left all the others standing. Includes complete episode guide.

___ **Cult TV** £10.99
Large format paperback looks back over 30 years of cult television programmes. Illustrated. Introduction by Patrick McGoohan.

___ **Disney Villains** £30.00
Disney animators Frank Thomas and Ollie Johnston guide you through the perilous world of the Disney villain from the Queen in Snow White to the evil Jafar in Aladdin. Profusely illustrated with deluxe pull-outs. (Hardcover)

___ **Don't Panic** £3.99
Neil Gaiman's behind the scenes guide to Douglas Adams' cult classic The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

___ **Donald Duck: Fifty Years of Happy Frustration** £25.00
Special limited edition with slipcase and free lithograph traces the history of Disney's irascible Duck. (Hardcover)

___ **Dracula: Film and Legend** £7.99
A stunning pictorial guide to Francis Ford Coppola's epic tale of Bram Stoker's legendary vampire.

___ **Encyclopedia of Animated Cartoons** £13.99
A thorough and fascinating insight into the world of Animated cartoons.

___ **Fantastic Cinema Subject Guide** £39.99
An encyclopedia of fantasy cinema including everything from dinosaurs to villains, time travel to man-eating plants. With its countless illustrations, it's a worthy addition to any filmfans bookshelf. (Hardcover)

___ **Films of Clint Eastwood** £14.99
An Illustrated guide to the films of Clint Eastwood.

___ **Films of Stephen King** £9.99
The films of the world's number one horror writer are discussed at great length in this highly informative guide.

___ **Films of Willis O'Brien (signed by the author)** £24.99
Steve Archer's affectionate biography of the man who gave the world stop-motion animation, dinosaurs and the mightiest monster of all time, King Kong. Illustrated (Hardcover)

___ **Fugitive novelisation** £4.99
The thrilling novelisation based on the film version of the classic sixties tv series The Fugitive starring Harrison Ford.

___ **George Lucas Creative Impulse** £19.95
The career of Star Wars creator George Lucas, gloriously illustrated with scenes from his films. (Hardcover)

___ **Gerry Anderson Classics** £4.99
A handy guide to the world's of Gerry Anderson from Supercar to Space 1999. (See Film and Television Merchandise Section)

___ **Gerry Anderson: The Complete Episode Guide** £8.99
Large format publication covers all the Gerry Anderson shows from Twizzle to Terrahawks. Illustrated.

___ **Gerry Anderson's FAB Facts** £5.99
Trivia questions on Gerry Anderson's greatest shows including the classic "What Does FAB stand for?"

___ **Gerry Anderson's International Rescue Book of FAB Cross-sections** £2.99
The incredible machines of Gerry Anderson's 21st Century are shown in full working order thanks to this collection of stunning pictures reprinted from the pages of TV21 Comic.

___ **Gerry Anderson's Make Your Own Captain Scarlet Models** £3.99
How to make your own models from the classic Gerry Anderson series ala Blue Peter but, without the sticky back plastic.

___ **Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds, Stingray and Captain Scarlet Programme Guide** £4.99
A pocket-sized reference to the work of Gerry Anderson with complete episode guide.

___ **Gerry Anderson's 21st Century Visions** £12.95
Profusely illustrated guide to Derek Meddings special effects for the Gerry Anderson television shows from Supercar to UFO.

___ **Gerry Anderson's UFO and Space 1999** £9.99
Everything you've ever wanted to know about these two classic Gerry Anderson shows.

___ **Giger's Alien** £14.95
H. R. Giger's terrifying creations for Alien are illustrated in full colour in this reprint of one of the most sought after film books ever published.

___ **Golden Age of Children's Television** £9.99
A fully illustrated guide to the best in Children's tv over the past 40 years.

___ **Guinness Guide to British Television** £14.99
Episode guide and brief resume of classic British tv series from comedy to thriller, from science fiction to secret agents.

___ **House of Hammer** £12.95
The story of Hammer Films plus a revised filmography. Illustrated.

___ **Incredibly Strange Filmbook** £9.99
Based on his television series, Jonathan Ross's guide to some of the most bizarre filmmakers ever to be let loose in Hollywood.

___ **Industrial Light and Magic** £50.00
The ultimate reference book on the state-of-the-art special effects facility Industrial Light and Magic presented in an art book format. (Hardcover)

___ **Illustrated Dinosaur Movie Guide (signed by the author)** £9.99
Author Stephen Jones takes you on a bewildering tour through prehistory with this excellent guide to dinosaur and giant animal movies from Gertie the Dinosaur to Jurassic Park.

___ **Illustrated Frankenstein Movie Guide** (June) NEW £9.99
Stephen Jones latest fantasy film guide celebrates the work of Dr. Frankenstein and assorted mad scientists.

___ **Illustrated Vampire Movie Guide** £9.99
Stephen Jones' wild and wacky filmography of everything to do with blood, bats and Transylvania.

___ **Jean Claude Van Damme** £5.99
The new superhero of the screen tells all in this revealing biography.

___ **Last Action Hero** £2.99
Your last chance to purchase, at a reasonable price, the official guide to Arnold Schwarzenegger's 1993 box-office calamity before it becomes a highly expensive collectors item.

___ **Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1994** £7.50
One of the best guides available to movies on television and video.

___ **Making of Jurassic Park** £8.99
The making of Steven Spielberg's $900 million plus box-office champ.

___ **Movies, Psycho's and Madmen** £12.99
All your favourite stalk and slash villains in one handy reference book. Profusely illustrated.

___ **Nightmare Before Christmas: The Making of the Movie** NEW £16.95
The making of Tim Burton's macabre animated epic with full colour illustrations. (Hardcover) (See also Merchandise section)

___ **Nightmare Before Christmas Story Book Pop-Up** £11.99
The amazing imagination behind the new cult movie by Tim (Batman) Burton, is vividly brought to three-dimensional life. (Hardcover)

___ **Nightmare of Ecstasy** £11.99
The films of Ed Wood Jnr, the filmmaker who brought you Plan 9 From Outer Space and other cult classics!

___ **Official Red Dwarf Companion** £6.99
A fully illustrated, behind the scenes expose of Rob Grant and Doug Naylor's hit television series.

___ **Phantom's Ultimate Video Guide** £10.50
Hefty paperback volume listing thousands of fantasy videos available to hire and buy.

___ **Prisoner and Danger Man** £14.95
Dave (The Avengers) Rogers presents this collection of facts and figures on two of British Televisions' most acclaimed series.

___ **Randall and Hopkirk Deceased** £9.99
With an introduction by Kenneth Cope (Hopkirk of the title), here is the ultimate guide to one of the most supernatural television shows ever made.

___ **Ray Harryhausen's Film Fantasy Scrapbook** £8.95
Titan Book's highly acclaimed reprint of Ray Harryhausen's fascinating insight in to his special effects work on films such as Jason and the Argonauts and Clash of the Titans.

___ **Rocky Horror Picture Show** £13.50
The behind the scenes low-down on Richard (The Crystal Maze) O'Brien's cult movie.

___ **Rocky Horror Picture Show Audience Participation Guide** £7.99
Join the Rocky Horror Picture Show audience for a glimpse in to the crazy world of true fandom.

___ **Rocky Horror Picture Show Experience: Creatures of the Night:** £12.50
Join in the fun with this guide to the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

___ **Shock Value** £12.50
The films of John Waters including Bad Taste, Pink Flamingos, Polyester and HairSpray.

___ **Shock Xpress: The Essential Guide to Exploitation Cinema** £12.50
The first volume of Stefan Jawarzyn's complete update on the horror movie scene first published last year.

___ **Shock Xpress 2: The Even More Essential Guide to Exploitation Cinema** £10.50
The latest reference guide to the horror movie scene including photographs, special articles and exclusive interviews. Illustrated.

___ **Stanley Kubrick** £15.00
A comprehensive guide to the work of a most remarkable filmmaker. The text is in German but the illustrations are collectors items.

___ **Star Wars: Guide to the Star Wars Universe** £7.99
From Airspeeders to Zorba the Hutt and beyond. Everything you need to know about the expanding universe of Star Wars.

___ **Star Wars: From Screen to Collectibles** £12.95
The most comprehensive guide to collecting Star

Wars toys, models, books, comics, games, film material, clothes and much, much more.

___ **Star Wars: Jedi Search** NEW £4.99
Volume One of the Jedi Academy Trilogy by Kevin J. Anderson.

___ **Star Wars: Monsters and Aliens From George Lucas** £15.95
A pictorial guide to the mysterious creatures that inhabit the fantastic world of the Star Wars movies.

___ **Star Wars: Art of Star Wars Galaxy** £13.50
George Lucas introduces this large format paperback that collects together over 70 images from the Topps Star Wars trading card set.

___ **Star Wars: Art of Star Wars Galaxy Limited Edition** NEW £120.00
Deluxe hardcover version limited to 1,000 copies in Slipcase with artists signatures.
(Ring 071 497 2150 for availability)

___ **Star Wars: Truce at Bakura NEW** £9.99
More adventures for the crew of the Millenium Falcon in this novel by Kathy Tyers. (Hardcover)

___ **Timeframe (Signed by the author)** £15.99
David J. Howe's comprehensive illustrated history of Doctor Who with many rare photographs and full page colour artwork. (Hardcover)

___ **Time Out Film Guide (3rd Edition)** £12.00
From Alphaville to Zombies, this is the most definitive up-to-date film guide ever published for movie buffs.

___ **Ultimate Disney Trivia Book** £7.99
Test your family's knowledge of Mickey Mouse and friends with this knowledgable guide to the films of Walt Disney.

___ **Videohound's Golden Movie Retriever 1994** £14.50
The most comprehensive guide to movies on video cassette and laser- disc. 22,000 movies reviewed over 1,000 pages.

___ **Yesterday's Tomorrows** £15.50
The fantasy film poster from the silent days to the latest movie blockbusters. Fully illustrated.

FILM & TV MERCHANDISE

ALIENS

Figures

___ **Bull Alien** £7.50
6" high Bull Alien with skull ramming action, plus trading card.

___ **Queen Face Hugger** £7.50
7" high Queen Face Hugger with grabbing tail and crushing legs plus trading card.

___ **Scorpion Alien** £7.50
6" high Scorpion Alien with unique exploding action and portable facehugger.

___ **Snake Alien** £7.50
6" high Snake Alien with snap-attack jaw, constricting tail and trading card.

___ **Space Marine Atax** £7.99
4.5" high Space Marine with Alien disguise gear and helmet- mounted missile plus trading card.

___ **Space Marine Bishop Android** £7.25
4.5" high Space Marine Bishop with real gatling gun action and sound and trading card.

___ **Space Marine Corporal Hicks** £7.25
4.5" high Corporal Hicks with bazooka that fires two alienator missiles plus trading card.

___ **Space Marine Lt. Ripley** £7.25
4.5" high Marine Lt. Ripley with Turbo Torch with real flame action.

___ **Space Marine Sergeant Apone** £7.25
4.5" figure of Space Marine Sgt. Apone with Grenade Launching action and free Dark Horse comic book.

ALIEN VS PREDATOR

FP EXCLUSIVE

Figures @£7.99

___ **Cracked Tusk Predator**
4" high figure with Firing Pulse Cannon.

___ **Scavage Predator**
4" high figure with Bola Blasting Action.

BATMAN ANIMATED TELEVISION SERIES

___ **Batcycle Vehicle** £11.50
Features Motorized Turbo Power, sound and wheelie action plus Batman figure.

(The following figures are all 4" high)

___ **Bruce Wayne** £6.99
including Snap-on Bat Armour.

___ **Catwoman** £6.99
including Whipping Arm Action and Claw Hooks.

___ **Combat Belt Batman** £6.99
with Firing Grappling Hook and Missile.

___ **High Wire Batman** £10.50
with Quick Escape Cable Wire.

___ **Infrared Batman** £6.99
with Launching Bat-Signal Disks.

___ **Man-Bat** £7.99
with Flapping Wings and Tow Cable.

___ **Mech-Wing Batman** £10.50
with Mechanized Soaring Wings.

___ **Scarecrow** £10.50
with Thrashing Sickle.

___ **Sky Dive Batman** £5.99
with Working Parachute for Surprise Attacks.

___ **The Riddler** £7.99
with Question Mark Launcher.

___ **Turbojet Batman** £6.99
with Firing Wrist Rocket and Pivoting Jet Engines.

CAPTAIN SCARLET

Figures

___ **Captain Black** £4.50
3" figure with portable radio and explosives kit.

___ **Captain Black Action figure** £16.99
12" poseable figure of Captain Scarlet's nemesis with full accessories.

___ **Captain Blue** £4.50
3" figure with laser bazooka.

___ **Captain Scarlet** £4.50
3" figure with portable electronic gun.

___ **Captain Scarlet Action figure** £16.99
12" poseable figure with full accessories.

___ **Colonel White** £4.50
3" figure with Spectrum Defence Chart

___ **Lieutenant Green** £4.50
3" figure with portable computer.

Puzzles

(100 piece jigsaws)

___ **Captain Scarlet** £3.99
Full colour image of Angel Interceptors blasting off.

___ **Captain Scarlet** £3.99
Full colour image of Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle and Spectrum Helicopter.

(250 piece jigsaws)

___ **Captain Scarlet** £6.99
Dynamic full colour image of Captain Scarlet, the Spectrum team, Captain Black, the Spectrum vehicles, aircraft and Mysteron base.

___ **Captain Scarlet** £6.99
Dynamic full colour image of Thunderbirds 1-5, the Mole, Fab 1, the Tracy family, The Hood, Lady Penelope and Tracy Island.

Talking Alarm Clock

___ **Captain Scarlet SPV Model on authentic base** £19.99
Model of SPV with realistic flashing light and siren plus voice alarm which says "This is the voice of the Mysterons. We know you can hear us Earthmen"

Toys

___ **Electronic Angel Interceptor** £27.99
Highly detailed model includes engine and laser cannon sounds plus opening cockpit and working seatbelt. Batteries not included.

___ **Spectrum Cloudbase HQ's** £44.99
Large and highly detailed model of Colonel White's Spectrum HQ with Spectrum Jetliner,decals, and handheld Mysteron light phaser (batteries not included).

___ **Spectrum Command Team** £21.95
Includes highly detailed die-cast models of two Angel Interceptors, Spectrum Jetliner, Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle and Spectrum Car in special presentation box.

DOCTOR WHO

Audio Tapes

___ **Genesis of the Daleks and Slipback** £9.35
Two classic stories narrated by Tom Baker featuring the Daleks, Davros and a mysterious killer .

___ **The Evil of the Daleks** £9.35
The classic "lost" Dalek story set in Victorian England and featuring Patrick Troughton as the Doctor. Presented by Tom Baker.

___ **The Macra Terror** £9.35
Mysterious goings-on down at the beach in this classic "lost" Dr Who story featuring Patrick Troughton and presented by Colin Baker.

___ **The Paradise of Death.** £9.35
Jon Pertwee returns in this special Radio dramatization of an original story by Barry Letts and produced by Phil (Dr Who: Thirty Years documentary) Clarke.

___ **30 Years at the Radiophonic Workshop** £14.99
The best Dr Who themes, incidental music and sound effects as produced by the multi-talented BBC Radiophonic Workshop.

___ **Tomb of the Cybermen** £9.35
Jon Pertwee presents this classic and recently rediscovered Dr Who Story starring Patrick Troughton and set on the planet of the Cybermen.

Figures

All figures are 4" high

___ **Dalek** £4.45
with Pull Back Action, Moveable Gun, Sucker Arm and Eyepiece.

___ **Friction Drive Dalek** £6.65
based on the original 1964 Marx Toys collectors item.

___ **Ice Warrior** £3.99
the terrifying Ice Warrior with laser rifle.

___ **The Fourth Doctor** £3.99
highly detailed model figure of the Fourth Doctor as portrayed by Tom Baker.

___ **The Seventh Doctor** £3.99
highly detailed figure of the seventh Doctor portrayed by Sylvester McCoy plus the famous umbrella.

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE

NEW (Available June '94)

Figures

Figures include hero Jack Skellington, his girlfriend Sally, villains Dr. Finklestein, the spectre Oogie Boogie, his henchpersons Lock, Shock and Barrel, the Mayor of Christmas Town, Sandy Claws and Jack's ghostly dog Zero.

___ **Barrel** £8.30
5" figure with vinyl head, cloth body and face mask.

___ **Barrel** £2.25
3" figure with pivoting arms and removable face mask.

___ **Dr. Finklestein Action vehicle** £4.25
5" figure in wheelchair that lurches from side to side.

___ **Jack Vinyl Bendy Toy** £7.99
10" figure with fully poseable limbs.

___ **Lock** £8.30
5" figure with vinyl head and cloth body plus removable mask.

___ **Lock** £2.25
4" figure with removable mask.

___ **Lock, Shock and Barrel Action vehicle** £4.25
3" figures that lurch from side to side in walking bathtub vehicle.

___ **Mayor** £2.25
5" figure of grotesque pot-bellied character with facial expression that changes from happy to sad.

___ **Oogie Boogie** £24.99
14" high cloth figure of the terrible Oogie Boogie who makes a gruesome sound when squeezed.

___ **Sandy Claws** £24.99
9" high figure of Sandy Claws with vinyl head and cloth body.

___ **Shock** £8.30
5" figure of Shock with vinyl head and cloth body plus removable face mask.
___ **Shock** £2.25
4" figure with pivoting arms and removable face mask.
___ **Zero Action vehicle** £4.25
5" figure of Jack's gruesome dog with head that moves back and forth.

Keychains (3" full colour key fobs)
___ **Jack and Sally** £2.50
Full colour vinyl image of Jack and Sally dancing.
___ **Lock, Shock and Barrel** £2.50
Full colour vinyl image of Lock, Shock and Barrel in gruesome pose.
___ **Nightmare Before Christmas Logo** £4.99
Full colour enamel and metal keychain featuring Jack's head and Nightmare Before Christmas logo.

Mugs
___ **Jack Skellington Figural Mug** £10.99
16 oz mug with whirly design, Jack's skull face and flying bat motif.

Whirly Pencils
___ **Barrel** £1.75
Small figure with leg outstretched balancing on skull.
___ **Jack** £1.75
Nightmare Before Christmas Logo and spinning Jack holding pumpkin.
___ **Lock** £1.75
Small figure with one leg in the air standing on pumpkin.
___ **Sally** £1.75
Nightmare Before Christmas logo and spinning Sally figure.
___ **Shock** £1.75
Small figure wearing gruesome disguise and standing on cauldron.

ROBOTECH
(See photographs on page 16)
Figures @ £1.50
The following 3" high figures are scaled to fit the toys listed below except the Mac II Cannon.
___ **B Terminator (6)**
___ **Lisa Hayes (3)**
___ **Lynn Minmei (10)**
___ **Maraya (11)**
___ **Max Sterling (9)**
___ **Rand (4)**
___ **Rick Hunter (1)**
___ **Robotech Master (5)**
___ **Roy Fokker (8)**
___ **Scott Bernard (2)**
___ **Zor Prime (7)**

Vehicles
___ **Invid Shock Trooper (1)** £5.99
10" plastic crab like mecha with fully poseable plasma cannons, battle claws and opening canopy.
___ **Mac II Cannon. (4)** £3.99
6" die-cast moveable Destroid cannon.
___ **Veritech Fighter Super VF-1S (3)** £7.99
15" authentic scale replica of Rick Hunter's fighter, with removable weaponry
___ **Zentraedi Officer's Pod (2)** £6.99
15" battle pod bristling with weapons. Canopy opens to accommodate action figure.

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S SEAQUEST
Figures @£6.99
(All figures are 4.5" high)
___ **Captain Nathan Hale Bridger**
Seaquest Captain with Stun Gun, PAL, SeaPOC, Spring powered Away Team Launcher with undersea Spelunking Hook and seaQuest display base.
___ **Chief Manilow Crocker**
Seaquest Chief with Stun Gun, PAL, Spring Powered Away Team Launcher with tranquilizer Torpedo, Computer Controlled Handcuffs, Killer Whale Replica and seaQuest display base.
___ **Commander Jonathan Devin Ford**
Seaquest Commander with Stun Gun, PAL, SeaPOC, Spring Powered Away Team Launcher with Warning Flare, Manta Ray replica and seaQuest display base.
___ **Lieutenant J. G. Tim O'Neill**
Seaquest Lieutenant with Stun Gun, PAL, SeaPOC, Deep Sea Cephalopodreplica, Communications Away Pack and seaQuest display base.
___ **Lucas Wolenczak**
Seaquest computer wizard with Spear Gun, Mammal Vo-Corder, EVA Skindiving Mask, PAL, SeaPOC, Hammerhead Shark replica and seaQuest display base.
___ **The Regulator Leslie Ferina**
Seaquest villain with Verne the Orangutan, PAL, Voltage Disc, Spring powered Harpoon Gun and Spherical Evolution display base.

STAR WARS
Audio Tapes
___ **Star Wars** £23.50
The story of the first movie in 13 episodes as broadcast on American radio with the voices of the original cast. (6 cassettes)
___ **Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back** £27.50
The sequel as broadcast on American radio with the voices of the original cast. (6 cassettes)

Bend-Em Figures @ £3.49
Due to the EEC import quota on foreign merchandise, Forbidden Planet have the exclusive rights to this final shipment of individually packed Star Wars figures. All are highly detailed, 4" high and fully poseable
___ **C3PO**
___ **Chewbacca**
___ **Darth Vader**
___ **Luke Skywalker**
___ **Obi Wan Kenobi**
___ **Princess Leia**
___ **R2D2**
___ **Storm Trooper**
___ **Yoda**
___ **Bend-Em Gift Box Set.** £11.50
Includes C3PO, Obi Wan Kenobi, Storm Trooper and Yoda figures.

Toys (Micromachines) @ £5.55
___ **Star Wars Collection One**
Includes highly detailed miniatures of X-Wing Starfighter, Millenium Falcon and Imperial Star Destroyer plus special display stands.
___ **Star Wars Collection Two**
Includes highly detailed miniatures of Tie Starfighter, Imperial AT-AT and Snowspeederplus special display stands.
___ **Star Wars Collection Three**
Includes highly detailed miniatures of Imperial At-St (Chicken Walker), Jabba's Desert Sail Barge and B-Wing Starfighter plus special display stands.

STINGRAY
Puzzles
(100 piece jigsaws)
___ **Stingray** £3.99
Full colour image of Stingray, Titan Terror Fish, Triton, Troy Tempest and Phones.
___ **Stingray** £3.99
Full colour image of Stingray, the crew, Titan Terror Fish and Triton.

Toys
___ **Stingray and Terrorfish Set** £5.95
Highly detailed models of Stingray with rotating propulsion unit and Titan Terrorfish with movable jaw.
___ **Stingray Marineville HQ's Action Playset** £27.99
Highly detailed model of Commander Shore's WASP HQ's which slides down into defenceposition below base. Playset includes 2 two-stage detachable rockets and ocean doorthat opens and closes. Fully detailed control room and model Stingray are also included.
___ **Stingray with firing missiles** £32.99
12" Stingray model features missiles that fire, a detachable cockpit and rotating propulsion unit.

TERMINATOR 2 FIGURES @ £5.99
All figures are 4" high
___ **Endoglow Terminator**
glows in the dark with Flame Thrower Blaster.
___ **Exploding T-1000 Terminator**
with Blast Apart Action
___ **Future War: Cyber-Grip Villain**
with Crushing Claw Action
___ **Future War: Hot-Blast Terminator**
with Bazooka Sprayer.
___ **Future War: Metal-Mash Terminator**
with Punch Action and Arrow Blaster.
___ **Future War: 3-Strike Terminator**
includes 3 weapon Arms and firing missile.
___ **Meltdown Terminator**
with White- Heat Bazooka Sprayer (Fires water to melt White-Hot T-1000)
___ **Power-Arm Terminator**
with Missile Launcher and Grabbing Claw.
___ **Secret Weapon Terminator**
with Hidden Chest Cannon.
___ **Techno-Punch Terminator**
with Super Smashing Action

THUNDERBIRDS
Figures
___ **Thunderbird 2 Virgil Tracy** £4.50
3" figure of Thunderbird 2 pilot.
___ **The Hood** £4.50
3" figure of Thunderbirds' enemy, The Hood.

Puppets
(Special price exclusive to Forbidden Planet. All puppets are 12" high and highly detailed)
___ **Brains** £14.99
___ **Parker** £9.99
___ **Scott** £14.99
___ **Virgil** £14.99

Puzzles
(100 piece jigsaws)
___ **Thunderbirds** £3.99
Full colour image of Thunderbird 5 and its pilot John Tracy.
___ **Thunderbirds** £3.99
Full colour image of Thunderbird 1 and its pilot Scott Tracy.

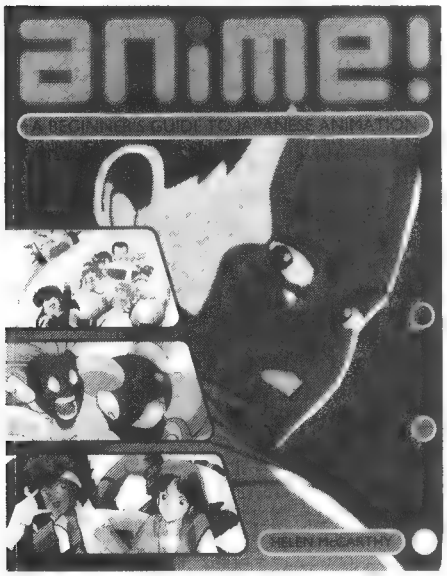
Talking Alarm Clock
___ **Thunderbird 2 Model on Tracy Island Ramp.** £19.99
Lift up TB2 and hear its jet engines with voice alarm of Jeff Tracy's saying "5,4,3,2,1, Thunderbirds Are Go!"

Toys
___ **Lady Penelope's FAB 1** £3.99
Beautiful 2" die-cast model of Lady Penelope's famour pink Rolls Royce.
___ **Thunderbird 2 and Thunderbird 4.** £12.99
Highly detailed model of Thunderbird 2 with removable pod containing Thunderbird 4.
___ **Thunderbird 2 Electronic Playset** £34.75
Highly detailed playset includes electronic pilot commands and rocket engine sounds. Model of Thunderbird 2 features retractable legs for touchdown and take-off plus fullyremovable pod and model of Thunderbird 4. (Batteries not included)
___ **Thunderbird 3** £4.50
4" model of rocketshipThunderbird 3.

VIDEOS
___ **Mission Impossible Volume One** £10.99
Contains episodes: Pilot and Old Man Out part 1.
___ **Mission Impossible Volume Two** £10.99
Contains episodes: Old Man Out part 2 and Memory
___ **Mission Impossible Volume Three** £10.99
Contains the episodes: Operation Rogosh and Odd's On Evil.
___ **Tripods Part One** £10.99
The cult BBC television series set in a future in which giant robot machines rule the Earth.

BOOKS

___ **A-ni-me! Berkely Journal of Japanese Animation** £11.95
Full details of the best in Japanese Anime. Illustrated in black and white. (large format paperback)



___ **Anime' Beginners Guide to Jap Animation** £6.99
Everything you'ver ever wanted to know about the growing cult of Japanese Manga and Anime. Illustrated.

___ **Kiki's Delivery Service** £10.95
Kiki's Delivery Service is a light-hearted look at growing up. Even harder, it seems, for ayoung witch and her cat. Profusely illustrated.

___ **Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind. Vol 1** £14.95
A thousand years after the last war and the Earth is covered in a posionous fungi forest and foul-smelling swamps. Into this hostile landscape comes the Fire Demon and a new threat emerges.

___ **Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind. Vol 2** £14.95
Nausicaa must return home to save her valley from hordes of mutant insects and the dreaded Fire Demon.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

___ **Appleseed Book 4** £8.95
The latest volume in the continuing adventures of Masamune Shirow's acclaimed Cyberpunk epic in which Eswat Operative Deunan and her cybernetic companion Briareos work to stabilize the uneasy world-wide peace they fought so hard to establish.

___ **Battle Angel Alita** £13.25
Stunning comic art by Yukito Kishiro.

___ **Crying Freeman: Shades of Death Vol 1** £10.50
From the talents of Kazuo Kooke and Ryoichi Ikegami.

___ **Crying Freeman: Shades of Death Vol 2** £10.50

___ **Crying Freeman: Shades of Death Vol 3** £10.50

___ **Mr. Arashi's Amazing Freak Show** £7.50
Suehiro Mauro's astonishing and powerful, surrealistic tale of a little orphan ensnared in a travelling freak show.

___ **Panorama of Hell** £7.50
A shocking, tortuous journey into the depths of one man's postnuclear hell. Nightmarish illustrations.

___ **Ranma 1/2** £13.25
Story and art by Rumiko Takahashi.

___ **A Taste of Revenge Book One** £11.50
High powered Manga action art by Ryoichi Ikegami.

___ **A Taste of Revenge Book Two** £11.50
More action packed Manga from Ryoichi Ikegami.

MAGAZINES

(See page 2 for subscription details)

___ **Anime UK #12** £3.50
Features include Battle Angel Alita and A-Z of Anime.

Anime Back Issues @ £3.50

___ **Anime UK #8**
European Anime and the Beginners Guide to Anime Fandom.

___ **Anime UK #9**
Canadian Club details and Manga Video preview.

___ **Anime UK #10**
U.S Convention and Manga Video releases.

___ **Anime UK #11**
American Manga and Anime Music.

___ **Manga Mania Volume 1 #7.** £1.95
Science Fantasy Special featuring Macross II, Space Cruiser, Yamato and Akira.

MODEL KITS

Stardust Memory Series
A series of sophisticated bioroids incorporating numerous weapons systems. (1/44 scale)

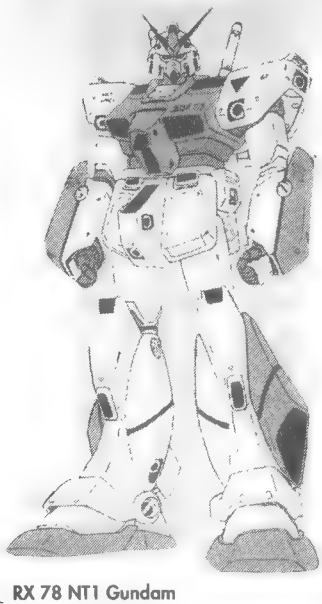
___ **AGX-04 Gerbera-Tetra** £14.99
___ **RX-78 Gundam GP01** £10.99
___ **RX-78 Gundam GP01 FB** £14.99
___ **RX-78 Gundam GP02A** £14.99
___ **RX-78 Gundam GP03S** £14.99

Pat Labour Series
Mobile Police robots and sophisticated battle suits 1/60 scale

___ **ARL-99B Hell driver** £12.99
___ **AV Type-98 Ingram** £12.99
___ **AV Type-Zero** £12.99
___ **AV-Standard 98** £22.99
___ **AV-Type 98 Alphonse SP3** £14.99
___ **MPL 97S Python Labor** £22.99
___ **SR-70 Saturn Labor** £22.99
___ **Type 7B/2B Brocken** £12.99
___ **Type J9 Griffon Labor** £12.99
___ **Type R13 Ex Phantom Albor** £12.99

War in the Pocket Series
Stunning reproductions of electronic Anime' warriors in full battle mode 1/144 scale

___ **GM Command** £8.99
___ **Hygog** £9.99
___ **MS-14JG Gelgoog J** £10.99
___ **MS-18E Kampfer** £11.99
___ **MSO9R2 Rickdom II** £10.99
___ **RGM-79GS Gim Command (space type)** £8.99



___ **RX 78 NT1 Gundam** £11.99

___ **Model Kits: Zugock E** £8.99
___ **Model Kits: Zuku-Fz** £8.99

MUSIC

___ **Akira Soundtrack (CD)** £12.99
The pulse-pounding sounds of Mega Tokyo from the cult animated classic Akira.

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(Please note that videos rated (18) are for sale to adults only)

___ **Catgirl Nuku-Nuku Episodes 1, 2 and 3 (PG)** £12.95
Meet Nuku-Nuku, an irresistibly cute combination of android and cat. She looks just likea normal high school girl, but has a superhuman speed and strength that needs to be seen to be be believed!

___ **Hurricane Live 2032 (PG)** £12.99
Mega-Tokyo is recovering from the ultimate Earthquake and rocking to the new vibrationsof Priss and the Replicants in this pulse-pounding music video based on the SF anime hit Bubblegum Crisis.

___ **Hurricane Live 2033 (15)** £12.99
The Boomer Androids are a plague on the good citizens of Mega-Tokyo in 7 thunderingmusic videos from Bubblegum Crisis plus live-action sequences from the special Tinsel CityRhapsody concerts.

___ **Legend of the Overfiend (18)** £12.99
Legend has it that the Earth is really three worlds consisting of the Man-Beasts, the Monster Demons and the humans. Classic anime' from Yasuhito Yamaki. Adult

___ **Macross II 1 (15)** £10.99
Features episode 1: Contact and Episode 2: Ishtar.

___ **Macross II 2 (15)** £10.99
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___ **Macross II 3 (15)** £10.99
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___ **Otaku No Video (15)** £12.99
A treat for true fans of any genre in this 'mockumentary' that combines superb animation with real life interviews. Includes both the 1982 and 1985 episodes.

___ **Return of the Overfiend Episode 1 (18)** £9.99
The World has been devastated by Destroyer God Nagumo. Adult.

___ **Riding Bean (18)** £19.99
Find out why the Chicago Police Departments auto-repair bill is so costly, when ace courier Bean Bandit takes to the road. Adult.

BOOKS

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(Titan Books)

___ 1: Chain Of Attack- G. Deweese £3.99
___ 2: Deep Domain- H. Weinstein £4.50
___ 3: Dreams Of The Raven- C. Carter £3.50
___ 4: The Romulan Way- D. Duane/P. Morwood £4.50
___ 5: How Much for Just the Planet?- J. Ford £3.50
___ 6: Blood Thirst- J.M. Dillard £4.50
___ 7: The I.D.I.C. Epidemic- J. Lorrah £4.50
___ 8: Yesterdays Son- A.C. Crispin £3.99
___ 9: Time For Yesterday- A.C. Crispin £3.99
___ 10: The Final Reflection- J. Ford £3.50
___ 11: Timetrap- D. Dvorkin £2.95
___ 12: The Vulcan Academy Murders- J. Lorrah £4.50
___ 13: The Three Minute Universe- B. Paul £3.99
___ 14: Star Trek 1: The Motion Picture- G. Roddenberry £2.95
___ 15: Star Trek 2: The Wrath Of Khan- V. McIntyre £2.95
___ 16: Memory Prime- G. and J. Reeves-Stevens £3.99
___ 17: The Entropy Effect- V. McIntyr £3.50
___ 18: The Final Nexus- G. Deweese £3.99
___ 19: Wounded Sky- D. Duane £3.50
___ 20: Vulcans Glory- D.C. Fontana £3.99
___ 21: My Enemy, My Ally- D. Duane £3.50
___ 22: Double, Double- M. J. Friedman £3.99
___ 23: The Covenant of the Crown- H. Weinstein £2.95
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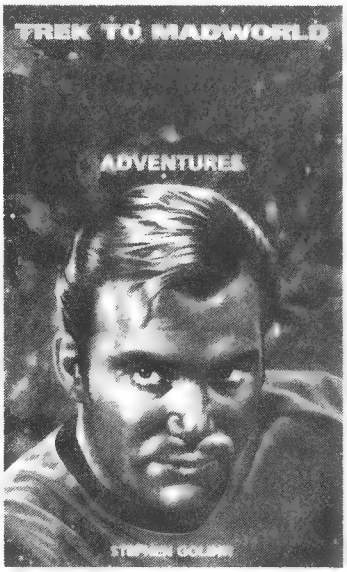
___ 5: Mudd's Angels- J. A Lawrence £4.50



___ 6: Trek to Madworld- S Goldin (June) NEW £4.50

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___ Star Trek Log #1
___ Star Trek Log #2
___ Star Trek Log #3
___ Star Trek Log #4
___ Star Trek Log #5
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___ Star Trek Log #8
___ Star Trek Log #9
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___ Probe- M. W. Bonanno £4.50
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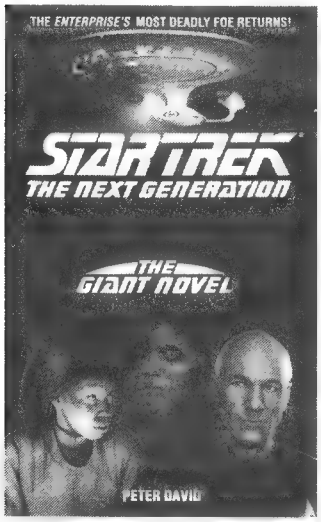
___ **1: Metamorphosis**- J. Lorrah



___ **2: Vendetta**- P. David

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION GRAPHIC NOVELS
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___ **Best of Star Trek: The Next Generation** £9.99
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___ **6: Betrayal**- Lois Tilton (May) **NEW**

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___ **1: The Star Ghost**- B Strickland
___ **2: Stowaways**- B Strickland

REFERENCE

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___ **Captain's Log: Making of Star Trek V** - W. Shatner £5.99
___ **Captain's Log: Star Trek to Deep Space Nine** £12.99
___ **Klingon Dictionary**- M. Ockrand £6.99
___ **The Making of Star Trek** - S. Whitfield and G. Roddenberry £5.99
___ **Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise**- S. Johnson £7.99
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___ **Star Trek Interview Book**- A. Asherman £6.99
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___ **Fallen Heroes**- Dafydd Ab Hugh (May) **NEW** £7.99

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(Please refer to page 2 for subscription details)

DC COMICS @ £1.20
___ **Star Trek #62**
___ **Star Trek Next Generation #62**

MALIBU COMICS @ £1.45
___ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine #11**
___ **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine Hearts and Minds**
(Debut issue of all-new 4 issue mini-series: Klingon ships surround DS9 and prepare for war with the Cardassians)

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(Please refer to page 2 for subscription details)

STAR TREK
___ **Star Trek Official Fan Club Magazine#97** £1.50
___ **Star Trek Fan Club of the UK Magazine#4** £3.75
(Published Quarterly)

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
___ **Star Trek Next Generation Magazine#29** £3.25
(Back Issues) @ £3.95
___ **1** (Interviews with cast and crew)
___ **2** (New Enterprise secrets)
___ **3** (Q Returns, Posters)
___ **4** (Stewart, Dorn interviews)
___ **5** (Episode synopsis)
___ **6** (New Bridge sets)
___ **7** (Weapons technology, uniforms, Trek novels)
___ **8** (Trek novels, Engineering, posters)
___ **9** (Dr Crusher returns, Trek comics)
___ **10** (The Borg, blueprints and diagrams)
___ **11** (Gene Roddenberry, fold-outs)
___ **12** (FX secrets, How to Beam Up)
___ **13** (Year 4, Trek Bestsellers, Posters)
___ **14** (Trek women, Music, synopses)
___ **15** (24th Century designers)
___ **16** (Painting Trek heroes, 24th Century costumes)
___ **17** (Nimoy speaks, Directing 5th season, centrefold)
___ **18** (Nimoy reviews 'Unification')
___ **19** (All Trek directors issue, most acclaimed episodes)
___ **20** (Trek trivia)
___ **21** (Guest star interviews)
___ **22** (David Assael on The Icarus Factor)
___ **23** (Episode synopses)
___ **24** (Comparing the old and new Star Trek series')
___ **25** (25th celebration; 100 page special)
___ **26** (Director's Index. Interview with cast)
___ **27** (Episode guide)
___ **28** (More Trek Trivia)
___ **Star Trek Next Generation Poster Magazine#74** £1.80

DEEP SPACE NINE
___ **Star Trek Deep Space Nine Magazine#7** £3.95

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MODEL KITS (PLASTIC)
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(Features Romulan War Bird (12"), Ferengi Marauder (4") and Klingon Bird Of Prey (3")
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___ Enterprise (ST Next Generation) £14.99
(22" long)
___ Enterprise (Star Trek VI) £14.99
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___ Galileo Shuttle £10.99
(10" long. Kit includes decals)
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(10" long)
___ Klingon Battle Cruiser (ST: Next Generation) £14.99
(14" long)
___ Klingon Battle Cruiser (Star Trek VI) £9.99
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(12" vinyl figure)
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(12" vinyl figure)

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___ Dr. McCoy
___ Lt. Uhura
___ Lt. Uhura and Chekov
___ NCC 1701/7 Shuttle craft
___ Sulu and Chekov on Bridge

STAR TREK VI
___ Crew (Kirk, Spock, McCoy and Scotty)

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
___ Crew (blue background)
___ Crew on Bridge
___ Data
___ Deanna Troi
___ Dr. Katherine Pulaski
___ Geordi La Forge
___ Picard
___ Riker
___ Wesley Crusher

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE
___ Chief Miles O'Brien
___ Crew
___ Deep Space Nine Space Station.
___ Security Chief Odo

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STAR TREK
___ 25th Anniversary (large Logo)
___ 25th Anniversary (crew photo)
___ USS Enterprise

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
___ Captain Picard
___ Crew photo
___ Crew profiles

DEEP SPACE NINE
___ Crew photo
___ Space Station

(Full colour "6 ft" Door Posters) @ £7.99
STAR TREK
___ Captain Kirk
___ Mr. Spock

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
___ Geordi La Forge
___ Lt. Data
___ Worf

TALKING ALARM CLOCK
___ Enterprise NCC-1701 NEW £21.50
(Enterprise model on planet base with voice alarm, sound of communicator opening, transporter beam, snooze feature and the immortal words "Landing Party to Enterprise Beam Us Up Scotty")

TOYS
STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION
___ Klingon Attack Cruiser £28.99
(Light up engines and authentic sounds. Batteries included)
___ La Forge Space Visor £2.95
___ Personal Communicator £7.99
(with flashing light. Batteries included)
___ Phaser £12.75
(with realistic battle sounds. Batteries included)
___ Romulan Warbird £28.99
(Light up Engines and authentic sounds. Batteries included)
___ Shuttlecraft Goddard £36.50
(Light up thrusters and authentic sounds. Batteries included)
___ Starship Enterprise £19.99
(With authentic starship sounds. Batts incl. Special price while stocks last)
___ Tricorder £14.95
(With authentic communication sounds. Batteries included)
___ Transporter Room £45.99
(Light up chamber and authentic sounds plus technical blueprint. Batteries included)
___ USS Enterprise NEW £12.99
(3" die-cast model of Enterprise with display stand as featured in the Star Trek Smithsonian Exhibition)

STAR TREK MICROMACHINES 1-5 @ £5.55
(Each set contains three beautifully detailed 3" models mounted on its own display stand)
___ **Original Star Trek Collection 1**
(USS Enterprise NC-1701, Klingon Battlecruiser and Romulan Bird of prey)
___ **Star Trek The Movies Collection 2**
(USS Excelsior, Klingon Bird of Prey and USS Reliant)
___ **Star Trek The Next Generation Collection 3**
(Klingon Vor'Cha Attack Cruiser, Borg Ship and Romulan Warbird)
___ **Star Trek The Next Generation Collection 4**
(Ferenghi Marauder, Borg Ship and Shuttlecraft)
___ **Star Trek Deep Space Nine Collection 5**
(Cardassian Ship, Space Station DS9 and Runabout)
___ **Star Trek Collector's Set** (9 models) **NEW £15.55**
(Star Trek: USS Enterprise NCC-1701, Klingon Battlecruiser, and Romulan Warbird. Star Trek The Movies: USS Excelsior, Klingon Bird of Prey and USS Reliant. Star Trek Next Generation: Klingon Vor'cha Attack Cruiser, Borg Ship and Romulan War Bird)
___ **Star Trek Collector's Set**
(16 models) **NEW £27.99**
(USS Enterprise NCC 1701, Klingon Battlecruiser, Romulan Bird of Prey, USS Excelsior, Klingon Bird of Prey, USS Reliant, Klingon Vor'cha Attack Cruiser, USS Enterprise NC 1701D, Romulan Warbird, Borg Ship, Ferenghi Marauder, Shuttlecraft, Space Station DS9, Cardassian Galor Warship and Runabout*plus USS Enterprise 1701-A exclusive to this special set. All models come complete with their own display stands)

T-SHIRTS
(Please circle size (L/XL) required)
STAR TREK
(Full colour designs on black shirt)
___ **To Boldly Go Where No Man Has Gone Before** (L/XL) **£10.99**
___ **Trouble With Tribbles** (L/XL) **£10.99**

(Black and White all over print design)
___ **Captain Kirk** (L/XL) **£13.75**
___ **Spock** (L/XL) **£13.75**

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION @ £10.99
(Full colour photo designs on black shirts)
___ **Crew** (L/XL)
___ **Picard** (L/XL)
___ **Worf** (L/XL)
___ **Enterprise** (L/XL)
___ **Data** (L/XL)

DEEP SPACE NINE @ £10.99
(Full colour photo designs on black shirts)
___ **Cardassian** (L/XL)
___ **Commander Sisko** (L/XL)
___ **Lieutenant Dax** (L/XL)
___ **Quark's Bar** (L/XL)
___ **Space Station Schematic** (L/XL)
___ **Space Station** (L/XL)

VIDEOS

(Please note PAL system only)
STAR TREK @ £10.99
___ **1: The Cage** (Black and white version)
___ **1: The Cage Special**
___ **2/3: Where No Man/Corbomite Manoeuver**
___ **4/5: Mudd's Women/The Enemy Within**
___ **6/7: The Man Trap/The Naked Time**
___ **8/9: Charlie X/Balance of Terror**
___ **10/11: What Are Little Girls Made of?/Danger of the Mind**
___ **12/13: Miri/The Conscience of the King**
___ **14/15: Galileo Seven/Court Martial**
___ **16: The Menagerie Part One and Two**
___ **17/18: Shore Leave/Squire of Gothos**
___ **19/20: Arena/ The Alternative Factor**
___ **21/22: Tomorrow is Yesterday/Return of the Archons**
___ **23/24: A Taste of Armageddon/Space Seed**
___ **25/26: This Side of Paradise/ Devil in the Dark**
___ **27/28: Errand of Mercy/City on the Edge of Forever**
___ **29/30: Operation Annihilate/Catspaw**
___ **31/32: Metamorphosis/Friday's Child**
___ **33/34: Who Mourns For Adonis?/Amok Time**
___ **35/36: Doomsday Machine/Wolf in the Fold**
___ **37/38: The Changeling/The Apple**
___ **39/40: Mirror, Mirror/The Deadly Years**
___ **41/42: I, Mudd/The Trouble With Tribbles**
___ **43/44: Bread and Circuses/Journey to Babel**
___ **45/46: A Private Little War/Gamesmasters of Triskelion**
___ **47/48: Obsession/The Immunity Syndrome**
___ **49/50: A Piece of the Action/By Any Other Name**
___ **51/52: Return to Tomorrow/PAtterns of Force**
___ **53/54: Ultimate Computer/Omega Glory**
___ **55/56: Assignment: Earth/Spectre of the Gun**
___ **57/58: Elaan of Troysius/Paradise Syndrome**
___ **59/60: Enterprise Incident/And the Children Shall Lead**
___ **61/62: Spock's Brain/Is There no Truth in Beauty**
___ **63/64: The Empath/The Tholian Web**
___ **65/66: For the World is Hollow/Day of the Dove**
___ **67/68: Plato's Stepchildren/Wink of an Eye**
___ **69/70: That Which Survives/Let That be Your Last Battlefield**
___ **71/72: Whom Gods Destroy/Mark of Gideon**
___ **73/74: Lights of Zetar/Cloud Minders**
___ **75/76: The Way to Eden/Requiem for Methuselah**
___ **77/78/79: Savage Curtain/All Our Yesterdays/ Turnabout Intruder**

STAR TREK THE ANIMATED SERIES @ £10.99
___ **Vol 1: More Tribbles/Infinite Vulcan**
___ **Vol 2: Survivor/Lorelei Signal**
___ **Vol 3: Mudd's Passion/ Magick of Megas-Tu**
___ **Vol 4: Slaver Weapon/Ambergris Element**
___ **Vol 5: Once Upon a Planet/The Terratin Eye**
___ **Vol 6: Bem/Albatross**
___ **Vol 7: Practical Joker/How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth**

STAR TREK MOVIES 1-5 @ £12.99
___ **1: The Motion Picture**
___ **2: The Wrath of Kahn**
___ **3: The Search for Spock**
___ **4: The Voyage Home**
___ **5: The Final Frontier**
___ **6: Undiscovered Country** (widescreen) **£13.99**

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION @ £10.99
___ **1: Encounter at Farpoint**
___ **2: Naked Now/Code of Honour**
___ **3: Last Outpost/Where No One Has Gone Before**
___ **4: Lonely Among Us/Justice**
___ **5: The Battle/Hide and Q**
___ **6: Haven/The Big Goodbye**
___ **7: Datalore/Angel One**
___ **8: 11001001/Too Short a Season**
___ **9: When the Bough Breaks/Home Soil**
___ **10: Coming of Age/Heart of Glory**
___ **11: Arsenal of Freedom/Symbiosis**
___ **12: Skin of Evil/ There Will Always Be Paris**
___ **13: Conspiracy/Neutral Zone**
___ **14: The Child/Where Silence Has Lease**
___ **15: Elementary Dear Data/Outrageous Okona**
___ **16: Loud As A Whisper/Schizoid Man**
___ **17: Unnatural Selection/A Matter of Honour**
___ **18: Measure of a Man/The Dauphin**
___ **19: Contagion/The Royale**
___ **20: Time Squared/Icarus Factor**
___ **21: Pen Pals/Q Who**
___ **22: Samaritan Snare/Up the Long Ladder**
___ **23: Manhunt/Emissary**
___ **24: Peak Performance/Shades of Grey**
___ **25: Evolution/Ensigns of Command**
___ **26: Survivors/Who Watches the Watchers**
___ **27: Bonding/Booby Trap**
___ **28: Enemy/The Price**
___ **29: Vengeance Factor/Defector**
___ **30: The Hunted/High Ground**
___ **31: Yesterday's Enterprise/Offspring**
___ **32: Deja Q/A Matter of Perspective**
___ **33: Sins of the Father/Allegiance**
___ **34: Captain's Holiday/Tin Man**
___ **35: Hollow Pursuits/The Most Toys**
___ **36: Sarek/Menage a Troi**
___ **37: Transfigurations/The Best of Both Worlds**
___ **38: The Best of Both worlds Part 2/Family**
___ **39: Brothers/Suddenly Human**
___ **40: Remember Me/Legacy**
___ **41: Reunion/Future Imperfect**
___ **42: Final Mission/The Loss**
___ **43: Data's Say/The Wounded**
___ **44: Devil's Due/Clues**
___ **45: First Contact/Galaxy's Child**
___ **46: Night Terrors/Identity Crisis**
___ **47: Nth Degree/Q Pid**
___ **48: The Drumhead/Half a Life**
___ **49: The Host/Mind's Eye**
___ **50: In Theory/Redemption part 1**
___ **51: Redemption part 2/Darmok**
___ **52: Ensign Ro/Silicon Avatar**
___ **53: Disaster/The Game**
___ **54: Unification parts 1 and 2**
___ **55: A Matter of Time/New Ground**
___ **56: Hero Worship/Violations**
___ **57: The Masterpiece Society/Conundrum**
___ **58: Power Play/Ethics**
___ **59: The Outcast/Cause and Effect**
___ **60: The First Duty/Cost of Living**
___ **61: The Perfect Mate/Imaginary Friend**
___ **62: I, Borg/The Next Phase**
___ **63: The Inner Light/Time's Arrow**
___ **64: Times Anew/Realm of Fear**
___ **65: Man of the People/Relics**
___ **66: Schisms/True Q**
___ **67: Rascals/Fistful of Data's**
___ **68: Quality of Life/Chain of Command part 1**
___ **69: Chain of Command part 2/Ship in a Bottle**
___ **70: Aquiel/Face of the Enemy**
___ **71: Tapestry/Birthright part 1**
___ **72: Birthright part 2/Starship Mine**
___ **73: Lessons/The Chase**
___ **74: Frame of Mind/Suspicions**
___ **75: Rightful Heir/Second Chances**
___ **76: Timescape/Descent part one**
___ **77: Descent part two/Liaisons**
___ **78: Interface/Gambit part one**

(New releases. See page 2 for subscription details)
___ **79: Gambit part two/Phantasms** (May) **NEW**
___ **80: Dark Page/Attached** (May) **NEW**
___ **81: Force of Nature/Inheritance** (June) **NEW**
___ **82: Parallels/The Pegasus** (June) **NEW**
___ **83: Homeward/Sub Rose** (July) **NEW**
___ **84: Lower Decks/Thine Own Self** (July) **NEW**

DEEP SPACE NINE @ £10.99
___ **1: Emissary**
___ **2/3: Past Prologue/A Man Alone**
___ **4/5: Babel Captive Pursuit**
___ **6/7: Q Less/Dax**
___ **8/9: The Passenger/Move Along Home**
___ **10/11: The Nagus/Vortex**
___ **12/13: Battle Lines/The Storyteller**
___ **14/15: Progress/If Wishes Were Horses**
___ **16/17: Forsaken/Dramatis Personae**
___ **18/19: Duet/In the Hands of the Prophets**
___ **20/21: Homecoming/Circle**
___ **22/23: Siege/Invasive Procedures**
(New releases. See page 2 for subscription details)
___ **24/25: Cardassians/Melora** (May) **NEW**
___ **26/27: Rules of Acquisition/Necessay Evil** (May) **NEW**
___ **28/29: Second Sight/Sanctuary** (June) **NEW**
___ **30/31: Rivals/The Alternative** (June) **NEW**
___ **32/33: Armageddon Game/Whispers** (July) **NEW**
___ **34/35: Shadowplay/Playing God** (July) **NEW**

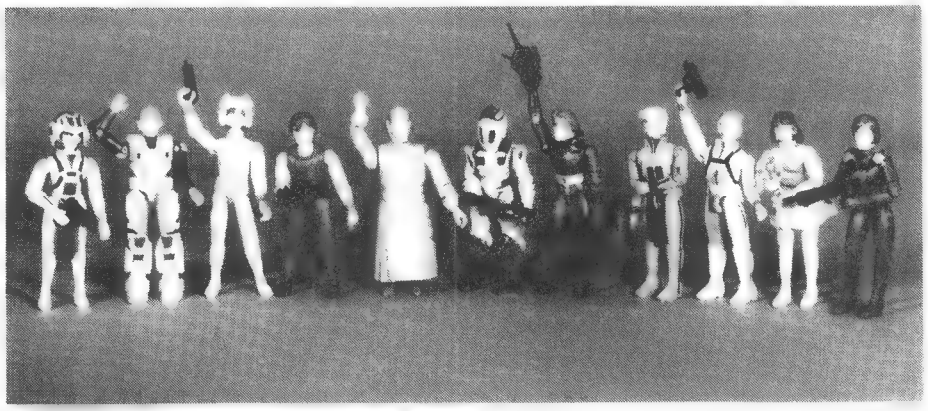
STAR TREK PILOT BOX SET @ £19.99
___ **The Three Beginnings**
(For the first time in one boxed set the three pilot episodes, ST: Where No Man Has Gone Before/ The Corbomite Maneuver, STNG: Encounter at Farpoint and DS9: Emissary)

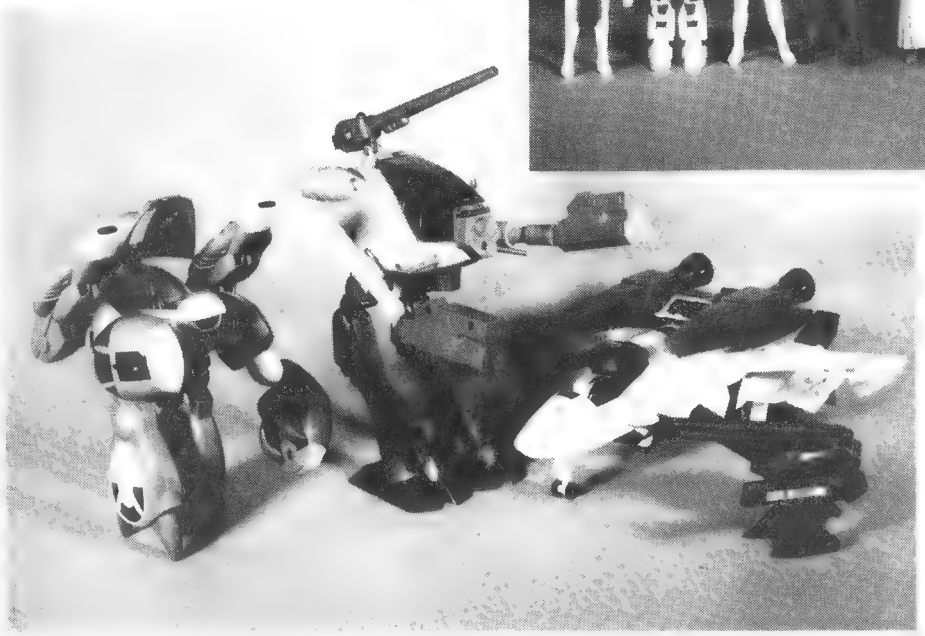
ROBOTECH TOYS

See page 10 for details

1. Invid Shock Trooper
2. Zentraedi Officer's Pod
3. Veritech Fighter Super VF-1S
4. Mac II Cannon

▼ **VEHICLES**





▲ **FIGURES**

1. Rick Hunter
2. Scott Bernard
3. Lisa Hayes
4. Rand
5. Robotech Master
6. B Terminator
7. Zor Prime
8. Roy Fokker
9. Max Sterling
10. Lynn Minmei
11. Miriya

ORDER FORM

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Summary P.4		
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The Grandfather of Comics

MAY 3rd 1934 should be a date engraved on the heart of every comics fan. On this day, the Eastern Color Printing Company launched **Famous Funnies**, the first four color standard-size, regular American comicbook.

This momentous event very nearly didn't happen though, as the sample comic produced a couple of months before for trial distribution by Woolworths was rejected.

Woolworths considered 64 pages for a dime (10¢) extortionate and that kids would never be able to afford that much for a mere comic. How wrong they were proven!

In 1934, an American kid would have been able to buy a full year's comics for less than $1, now he would need over $1,200.

The man responsible for us having comic collections, Harry I. Wildenberg, was a printing employee at Eastern Colour. He was the first to realise that newspaper strips could be squeezed into a folded page of tabloid format paper.

M. C. Gaines, later to become one of the captains of the comics industry through both DC and EC Comics, decided that collections of reprinted newspaper funnies would make great advertising premiums.

Having produced several of these giveaways, he then experimented with a cover price. Undaunted by the Woolworths rejection, he eventually persuaded the American News Corporation to distribute his first 10¢ title, **Famous Funnies**, to the newsstands of America.

Issue #1's print run of 200,000 copies sold a remarkable 90% (taday 30% newsstand sale is considered an achievement) but it took until issue 12 for the comic to actually break even. By that time it was netting $30,000 a month.

Comics as we know them had been born - and had survived their teething stage.

But while **Famous Funnies** was launched with repackaged Sunday strips it is surprising to note that the strips chosen were hardly the classics of the day. Aiming at humour, literally interpreting its title and the word "comics", **Famous Funnies** had no *Prince Valiant, Tarzan* or *Flash Gordon*. Few of the strips in the first issue are even remembered today. Outside of *Mutt & Jeff* and *Joe Palooka*, it contained *The Toonerville Folks, Hairbreadth Harry, S'Matter Pop, Nipper, Dixie Dugan, Bungle Family, Connie, Ben Webster, Tailspin Tommy* and *The Nebbs*. To reach beyond an all-male readership, there were also Jane Arden cut out clothes and two page text story in the middle.

By the third issue one adventure strip made its first appearance as *Buck Rogers* was added. But though **Famous Funnies** was reprinting mostly second rate strips, something about the format must have struck a chord with the American people, for the idea stuck and was swiftly followed by others.

Presumably with a bigger budget, the second title on the market, **Popular Comics**, had better strips, true classics such as *Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie* and *Terry and the Pirates*. Yet despite this, **Famous Funnies** was to run for over 200 issues and spawn the comics industry as we know it.

Over its twenty years, some of comics finest artists had work published in **Famous Funnies**. Issue 62 featured *Lightnin' and the Lone Rider*, a pale imitation of The Lone Ranger which was some of the earliest work of Lance Kirby, better known in later years as Jack 'King' Kirby. Al Williamson had his first work in **Famous Funnies** and Bill Everett produced cover art.

In the 1950s, top fantasy painter Frank Frazetta (then an assistant in the Harry Harrison-Wally Wood studio) played a hand in trying to save what had become an ailing publication. He produced a series of seven science fiction covers celebrating the return of *Buck Rogers* after a two-issue break for a new character *Barney Carr Space Detective*. But only six Frazetta covers were published (for #210-216), the seventh was rejected and reworked for EC's **Weird Science Fantasy #29** (1955).

Ironically, the title itself was rejected only two months later, and folded with #218 in July 1955.

But the true beginning of the end for **Famous Funnies** had been almost 15 years earlier with the advent of the superhero comics. In 1939, its sales had peaked at just over 400,000 a month. But by 1941, as the superhero trend exploded, sales fell to almost half, just 250,000.

Never really changing their formula the company did try using dramatic covers (from #81) to compete with the exciting new comics that were springing up. But their attempt at a superhero of their own was hardly dynamic. Fearless Flint had been a jackhammer operator on Mount Rushmore. An explosion had turned him into *A Man From Flint* with the strength of ten men.

But despite comics' main strength being their visuals, the sole sign of his amazing powers seemed to be that he turned red when using them. It soon became apparent that **Famous Funnies** main role had been in jump-starting an industry and then being left in its slipstream.

At its ignoble end, **Famous Funnies** had become a struggling directionless bi-monthly with only 32 pages, but still containing the ever popular Buck Rogers, who had missed only 16 issues.

The legacy of this rarely celebrated comic is another matter though. **Famous Funnies** was the start of the comics industry we all love. It is estimated that there are only 30 copies of that first issue still in existence. What was once a 10¢ experiment is now a $90,000 collector's item in near mint condition.

In memory of May, 1934, and the creation of a world-wide industry, I hope that comic collectors everywhere will join me this month in raising a glass to **Famous Funnies**.

-- Steve Cook

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COMICS ECONOMICS

The direct sale market now represents over 85% of US comics publishers sales revenue. The following shows the top titles ordered through the four leading UK & US direct sales distributors. As such it does not reflect retail sales, but instead total orders placed by traders anticipating their retail sales three months ahead. *compiled by Phil Hall*

Direct Market order charts: April 1994 titles

Titan Distributors (UK) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 33 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Incredible Hulk 418 ($2.50)	Marvel
2	Uncanny X-Men 313 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Spider-Man 2099 20 ($1.50)	Marvel
3	Spawn 21 ($1.95)	Image	28	Amazing Spider-Man 390 ($1.50)	Marvel
4	Sandman 61 ($1.95)	DC	29	Daredevil 329 ($1.50)	Marvel
5	Uncanny X-Men Annual 18 (2.95)	Marvel	30	Superman 90 ($1.50)	DC
6	X-Force 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	31	Lobo 6 ($1.75)	DC
7	X-Factor 103 ($1.50)	Marvel	32	Fantastic Four 389 ($1.50)	Marvel
8	X-Men Unlimited 5 ($3.95)	Marvel	33	Adventures/Superman 513 ($1.50)	DC
9	WildC.A.T.s 10 ($1.95)	Image	34	Superman Man of Steel 34 ($1.50)	DC
10	Cyclops/Phoenix 2 ($2.95)	Marvel	35	Batman Annual 18 ($2.95)	DC
11	Wolverine 82 ($1.95)	Marvel	36	Spider-Man/X-Factor 2 ($1.95)	Marvel
12	Superman/Doomsday 1 ($4.95)	DC	37	Lobo Contract on Gawd 3 ($1.95)	DC
13	Superman/Doomsday 2 ($4.95)	DC	38	Spider-Man 46 ($2.95)	Marvel
14	X-Men 2099 #9 ($1.50)	Marvel	39	Spider-Man 47 ($1.95)	Marvel
15	Hellblazer 78 ($1.75)	DC	40	Detective Comics Annual 7 ($2.95)	DC
16	Sin City: Dame 6 ($2.95)	Dark Horse	41	Avengers 375 ($1.50)	Marvel
17	Previews vol 4 #4 ($2.00)	Diamond	42	Star Wars Droids 1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
18	Batman 508 ($1.50)	DC	43	Catwoman 11 ($1.75)	DC
19	Legends/Dark Knight 61 ($1.75)	DC	44	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC
20	Excalibur 78 ($1.95)	Marvel	45	Savage Dragon 10 ($1.95)	Image
21	Cable 12 ($2.00)	Marvel	46	Stormwatch 9 ($2.50)	Image
22	Action Comics 700 ($2.95)	DC	47	Witchcraft 1 ($1.95)	DC
23	Detective Comics 675 ($2.95	DC	48	Books of Magic 2 ($1.95)	DC
24	Shadow of the Bat 28 ($1.75)	DC	49	Silver Surfer 93 ($1.50)	Marvel
25	Cyberforce 4 ($1.95)	Image	50	Shade the Changing Man 48 ($1.95)	DC

First Choice Wholesale (UK) Top 50 Titles

1	Spawn 21 ($1.95)	Image	26	Lobo: Contract on Gawd 3 ($1.75)	DC
2	X-Men 33 ($1.50)	Marvel	27	Shadow of the Bat 28 ($1.75)	DC
3	Uncanny X-Men 313 ($1.50)	Marvel	28	Cyberforce 4 ($1.95)	Image
4	Superman/Doomsday 1 ($4.95)	DC	29	Legends/Dark Knight 61 ($1.75)	DC
5	Sandman 61 ($1.95)	DC	30	Amazing Spider-Man 390 ($2.95)	Marvel
6	Superman/Doomsday 2 ($4.95)	DC	31	Witchcraft 1 ($1.95)	DC
7	Wolverine 82 ($1.75)	Marvel	32	X-Men Unlimited 5 ($2.95)	Marvel
8	WildC.A.T.s 10 ($2.50)	Image	33	Fantastic Four 389 ($1.50)	Marvel
9	Hellblazer 78 ($1.95)	DC	34	Catwoman 11 ($1.50)	DC
10	Radioactive Man 216 #4 ($1.95)	Bongo	35	Incredible Hulk 418 ($2.50)	Marvel
11	Star Wars Droids 1 ($2.50)	Dark Horse	36	Star Trek DS9 #9 ($1.95)	Malibu
12	Bartman 2 ($1.95)	Bongo	37	Swamp Thing 143 ($1.95)	DC
13	X-Factor 103 ($1.50)	Marvel	38	Cable 12 ($2.00)	Marvel
14	Books of Magic 2 ($1.95)	DC	39	Excalibur 78 ($1.95)	Marvel
15	Detective Comics 675 ($2.95)	DC	40	Conan the Adventurer 1 ($2.95)	Marvel
16	Daredevil 329 ($1.50)	Marvel	41	Newmen 1 ($1.95)	Image
17	Batman 508 ($1.50)	DC	42	X-Men 2099 #9 ($1.50)	Marvel
18	Action Comics 700 ($2.95)	DC	43	Spider-Man 2099 #20 ($1.50)	Marvel
19	Rune 4 ($1.95)	Malibu	44	Spider-Man 46 ($2.95)	Marvel
20	X-Force 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	45	Ghost Rider 2099 #2 ($1.50)	Marvel
21	Lobo 6 ($1.75)	DC	46	Shade the Changing Man 48 ($1.95)	DC
22	Cyclops & Phoenix 2 ($2.95)	Marvel	47	Adventures/Superman 513 ($1.50)	DC
23	Uncanny X-Men Annual 18 (2.95)	Marvel	48	Superman Man of Steel 34 ($1.50)	DC
24	Sin City: Dame 6 ($2.95)	Dark Horse	49	Superman 90 ($1.50)	DC
25	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC	50	Dreadstar 1 ($1.95)	Malibu

Diamond Distributors (US) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 33 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Gen-13 #3 ($2.50)	Image
2	Spawn 21 ($1.95)	Image	27	Spect Spider-Man 213 ($2.95)	Marvel
3	Uncanny X-Men 313 ($1.50)	Marvel	28	Incredible Hulk 418 ($2.50)	Marvel
4	Superman/Doomsday 1 ($4.95)	DC	29	Cable 12 ($2.00)	Marvel
5	Superman/Doomsday 2 ($4.95)	DC	30	Shadow of the Bat 28 ($1.75)	DC
6	Action Comics 700 ($2.95)	DC	31	Stormwatch 9 ($2.50)	Image
7	WildC.A.T.s 10 ($2.50)	Image	32	Green Lantern 53 ($1.50)	Image
8	Wolverine 82 ($1.95)	Marvel	33	Legends/Dark Knight 61 ($1.75)	DC
9	Cyclops/Phoenix 2 ($2.95)	Marvel	34	Newmen 1 ($1.95)	Image
10	X-Men Unlimited 5 ($3.95)	Marvel	35	Prophet 6 ($1.95)	Image
11	X-Force 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	36	Venom: The Mace 2	Marvel
12	Superman 90 ($1.50)	DC	37	Spider-Man 47 ($1.95)	Marvel
13	Uncanny X-Men Annual 18 (2.95)	Marvel	38	Savage Dragon 10 ($1.95)	Image
14	Amazing Spider-Man 390 ($2.95)	Marvel	39	Superboy 5 ($1.50)	DC
15	Adventures/Superman 513 ($1.50)	DC	40	Star Wars Droids 1 ($2.95)	Dark Horse
16	Detective Comics 675 ($1.50)	DC	41	Kindred 2 ($2.50)	Image
17	Superman Man of Steel 34 ($1.50)	DC	42	Spider-Man 2099 #20 ($1.50)	Marvel
18	X-Men 2099 #9 ($1.50)	Marvel	43	Ghost Rider 50 ($2.95)	Marvel
19	Spider-Man 46 ($1.75)	Marvel	44	Ghost Rider 2099 #2 ($1.50)	Marvel
20	Cyberforce 4 ($1.95)	Image	45	Superman Annual 6 ($2.95)	DC
21	X-Factor 103 ($1.50)	Marvel	46	Excalibur 78 ($1.95)	Marvel
22	Batman 508 ($1.50)	DC	47	Catwoman 11 ($1.75)	DC
23	Beavis & Butt-Head 4 ($1.95)	Marvel	48	Fantastic Four 389 ($2.95)	Marvel
24	Web of Spider-Man 113 ($2.95)	Marvel	49	Avengers 375 ($2.50)	Marvel
25	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC	50	Sandman 61 ($1.95)	DC

Capital City Distribution (US) Top 50 Titles

1	X-Men 33 ($1.50)	Marvel	26	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC
2	Spawn 21 ($1.95)	Image	27	Hulk 418 ($2.50)	Marvel
3	Uncanny X-Men 313 ($1.50)	Marvel	28	Shadow of the Bat 28 ($1.75)	DC
4	Superman/Doomsday 1 ($4.95)	DC	29	Cable 12 ($2.00)	Marvel
5	Superman/Doomsday 2 ($4.95)	DC	30	Legends/Dark Knight 61 ($1.75)	DC
6	Action Comics 700 ($1.50)	DC	31	Gen-13 #3 ($2.50)	Image
7	Wolverine 82 ($1.95)	Marvel	32	Spider-Man 47 ($2.95)	Marvel
8	Amazing Spider-Man 390 ($2.95)	Marvel	33	Venom The Mace 2 ($2.95)	Marvel
9	Cyclops & Phoenix 2 ($2.95)	Marvel	34	Spider-Man 2099 #20 ($1.50)	Marvel
10	Detective Comics 675 ($2.95)	DC	35	Prophet 6 ($1.95)	Image
11	WildC.A.T.s 10 ($2.50)	Image	36	Spider-Man/X-Factor 2 ($1.95)	Marvel
12	X-Men Unlimited 5 ($3.95)	Marvel	37	Stormwatch 9 ($1.95)	Image
13	Uncanny X-Men Annual 18 (2.95)	Marvel	38	Green Lantern 53 ($1.50)	DC
14	X-Force 35 ($1.50)	Marvel	39	Superboy 5 ($1.50)	DC
15	Adventures/Superman 513 ($1.50)	DC	40	Ghost Rider 50 ($2.95)	Marvel
16	Superman 90 ($1.50)	DC	41	Newmen 1 ($1.95)	Image
17	X-Men 2099 #9 ($1.50)	Marvel	42	Kindred 2 ($1.95)	Image
18	Superman Man of Steel 34 ($1.50)	DC	43	Savage Dragon 10 ($1.95)	Image
19	Batman 508 ($1.50)	DC	44	Daredevil 329 ($1.50)	Marvel
20	Beavis & Butt-Head 4 ($1.95)	Marvel	45	Fantastic Four 389 ($1.50)	Marvel
21	Spider-Man 46 ($1.95)	Marvel	46	Star Wars Droids 1 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
22	X-Factor 103 ($1.50)	Marvel	47	Ghost Rider 2099 #2 ($1.50)	Marvel
23	Cyberforce 4 ($1.95)	Image	48	Catwoman 11 ($1.75)	DC
24	Web of Spider-Man 113 ($2.95)	Marvel	49	Supermna Annual 6 ($2.95)	DC
25	Spect Spider-Man 213 ($2.95)	Marvel	50	Excalibur 78 ($1.95)	Marvel

Comics International Top 50: 04/94

WHILE the facing page's charts for the two major US distributors and their UK equivalents throw up interesting differences between buying trends in each country, in an attempt to overview the industry, **Comics International** is now producing its own top fifty chart.

Taking the order levels from each company and factoring in the size of each operation, we are able to produce a chart reflecting the entire month with far greater accuracy than those produced for the record, film or book industry.

As always, this represents the trade orders for titles — meaning retailers believe they can sell the books they are ordering. Whether consumers choose to buy them is a different matter. (Key: re = re-entry)

1	(2)	X-Men 33 ($1.50)	Marvel
2	(re)	Spawn 21 ($1.95)	Image
3	(4)	Uncanny X-Men 313 ($1.50)	Marvel
4	(new)	Superman/Doomsday 1 ($4.95)	DC
5	(new)	Superman/Doomsday 2 ($4.95)	DC
6	(16)	Action Comics 700 ($2.95)	DC
7	(6)	Wolverine 82 ($1.95)	Marvel
8	(9)	WildC.A.T.s 10 ($1.95)	Image
9	(5)	Adventures/Cyclops & Phoenix 2 ($2.95)	Marvel
10	(re)	X-Men Unlimited 5 ($3.95)	Marvel
11	(8)	X-Force 35 ($1.50)	Marvel
12	(new)	Uncanny X-Men Annual 18 ($2.95)	Marvel
13	(11)	Amazing Spider-Man 390 ($2.95)	Marvel
14	(24)	Detective Comics 675 ($2.95)	DC
15	(18)	Superman 90 ($1.50)	DC
16	(16)	Adventures of Superman 513 ($1.50)	DC
17	(14)	Superman Man of Steel 34 ($1.50)	DC
18	(15)	X-Men 2099 #9 ($1.50)	Marvel
19	(21)	Batman 508 ($1.50)	DC
20	(17)	X-Factor 103 ($1.50)	Marvel
21	(re)	Cyberforce 4 ($1.95)	Image
22	(34)	Spider-Man 46 ($2.95)	Marvel
23	(29)	Beavis & Butt-Head 4 ($1.95)	Marvel
24	(37)	Incredible Hulk 418 ($2.50)	Marvel
25	(37)	Robin 7 ($1.50)	DC
26	(24)	Cable 12 ($2.00)	Marvel
27	(25)	Shadow of the Bat 28 ($1.75)	DC
28	(41)	Gen-13 #3 ($2.50)	Image
29	(re)	Spectacular Spider-Man 213 ($2.95)	Marvel
30	(re)	Web of Spider-Man 113 ($2.95)	Marvel
31	(re)	Green Lantern 53 ($1.50)	DC
32	(34)	Spider-Man 47 ($1.95)	Marvel
33	(30)	Legends of the Dark Knight 61 ($1.75)	DC
34	(re)	Stormwatch 9 ($1.95)	Image
35	(20)	Venom The Mace 2 ($2.95)	Marvel
36	(new)	Ghost Rider 50 ($2.95)	Marvel
37	(new)	Newmen 1 ($1.95)	Image
38	(27)	Prophet 6 ($1.95)	Image
39	(31)	Superboy 5 ($1.50)	DC
40	(33)	Spider-Man 2099 #20 ($1.50)	Marvel
41	(22)	Kindred 2 ($2.50)	Image
42	(re)	Savage Dragon 10 ($1.95)	Image
43	(new)	Star Wars: Droids 1 ($2.50)	Dark Horse
44	(49)	Excalibur 78 ($1.95)	Marvel
45	(39)	Fantastic Four 389 ($1.50)	Marvel
46	(new)	Superman Annual 6 ($2.95)	DC
47	(re)	Sandman 61 ($1.95)	DC
48	(12)	Ghost Rider 2099 #2 ($1.50)	Marvel
49	(23)	Spider-Man/X-Factor 2 ($1.95)	Marvel
50	(45)	Catwoman 11 ($1.75)	DC

MARVEL COMICS continues to dominate the top 50 with a 48% share. But the mutant and Spider-Man families of titles are now sharing the chart with a wider range of Marvels.

Holding seven of the top 12 places, the X-books continue to reign supreme. Eight of this month's 11 **X-Men** family of titles are in the top twenty. But **X-Men 2099** continues to slide and after seven consecutive months in the top ten has fallen dramatically over the last two charts and now features at #18.

Although Marvel's highest new entry (at #12) is **Uncanny X-Men Annual 18**, none of the six new titles Marvel released in April managed to chart. These include the new **Conan the Adventurer** and the Angel Medina illustrated **Blackwulf** title.

Excalibur continues to rise, now up to #44 and apparently still climbing. **Hellstorm** writer Warren Ellis is to take over the writing with issue 82, in what could be an attempt to push the title even higher.

Ghost Rider 2099 #2 is the biggest faller in the chart, down a mammoth 36 places and looking destined to fall out of the top 50. The 2099 line of titles is struggling to maintain chart position and with **X-Men** and **Spider-Man** 2099 titles both still falling in the chart, it may not be long before the entire line drops oout of the top 50.

Marvel's movers are eclipsed by the **Incredible Hulk**, which is consistently moving higher in the charts. The wedding of Rick Jones and Marlo Chandler special issue hits a new high of 24 and while next issue will feature a fill-in, expect the title to continue its upward trend.

Spider-Man 46 (featured in last month's chart, but was resolicited with a more expensive cover price due to included cover enhancement and free gift) moves up 12 places from last month to 22 and is joined by **Spider-Man** 47 (without gimmicks) which also placed higher than #46 did when first solicited. **Spectacular** and **Web of Spider-Man** both returned to the charts, due to the added cover enhancements and animation cels from the forthcoming animated series.

Ghost Rider, no stranger to high positions in distributors top 50s, is a new entry in the **Comics Economics** chart. The anniversary issue 50 with the return of the true spirit of vengeance is in the chart at #36, this, however, is arguably because of its enhanced cover.

The anniversary 375th issue of **Avengers** is in this month's 51st position. This title has constantly risen over the last six months and is close to obtaining a regular chart position if sales continue with their current trend.

DC COMICS increases its share yet again, up to 32% of the top 50. **Superman/Doomsday: Hunter/Prey** is a big new entry for DC. Despite the prestige format rematch between the Man of Steel and the monster that "killed" him being priced at $4.95, the first two issues have placed at #4 and #5 in the top ten.

Action Comics celebrates a true comics milestone this month, with the release of issue 700 beginning the *Fall of Metropolis* storyline. This major new storyline is helping attract fans to all the Superman and related titles. Only **Steel** has fallen out of the top 50.

Green Lantern's skip month last month hasn't harmed the sales of the revamped title. Issue 53 re-enters the chart at 31 and looks destined to hold onto its top fifty place for the foreseeable future.

Batman titles are still popular, but as the family of comics continues to grow, collectors are having to pick and choose, rather than buy them all. **Robin** moves up to 25th, due largely to it being a *Knightsend* chapter, while **Catwoman** has fallen to 50th position.

The new **Huntress** mini series failed to make the top fifty, but despite it being the heroine's third series, it still placed higher than all but three of the new Marvel titles.

Charting for the first time since October 1993 is **Sandman**. Sales on this title continue to increase and if this current trend continues, DC will have to consider whether cancelling the title makes economic sense.

IMAGE COMICS stabilises at an 18% share of the chart, much of which is taken-up with re-entries into the top 50. But, even the re-entries are not showing encouraging signs to Image. **Cyberforce**, **Savage Dragon** and **Stormwatch** all re-entered the charts in lower positions than their last chart positions two months ago.

Prophet fell 11 places and is now hovering around the low 30s in the top 50, perhaps Steven Platt didn't get enough Marvel exposure before Liefeld poached him? There are many fans who are just not aware of the artist.

The other Extreme studio titles continue on their downward spiral. **The Newmen** is a new entry, but at a disappointing #37. Of the seven April Extreme titles only **Prophet** and **Newmen** chart.

A total of seven Image titles failed to make the top 50 and they now have only a 60% success rate with their titles. Only **Spawn** and **WildC.A.T.s** seem to have the staying power.

WildC.A.T.s moves up a place despite a 55 cent cover price increase. This could be due to the creative team up with Chris Claremont. Jim Lee's title, although by no means a poor seller, seemed to be falling away from the top. Claremont's stint on the book must be attracting new readers.

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DARK HORSE continues to maintain its healthy track record with **Star Wars** spin-offs. **Droids** #1 enters the chart at 43, giving Dark Horse back the 2% share of the top 50 they lost last month. As with DC's Vertigo imprint, Dark Horse seems to have a larger following in the United Kingdom than it does in comparison with the USA.

GENERAL ANALYSIS: The following notable titles didn't make the top 50: Marvel's **Conan the Adventurer** #1, **Blackwulf** #1 and **Fantastic Four Annual** #27 and DC's **Lobo** #6, **The Huntress** #1, **Batman Annual** #18 and **Detective Comics Annual** #7. The last two are both Batman *Elseworlds* stories, yet whenever there is a special Batman *Elseworlds* edition sales are usually much higher. This could be an indication that the concept is beginning to lose its appeal.

Harbinger Files #1 and **Bloodshot Yearbook** #1 from Valiant both failed to reach the top 50.

Harris Comics new **Vampirella** series also failed to make the top fifty, but its mid 51-100 position must be a promising start for the publishers.

Titles that dropped out of the chart this month (not including one-shots and concluded mini-series):

	issue	last month	this month
Armorines (Valiant)	2	(36)	77
Steel (DC)	4	(44)	56
Brigade (Image)	9	(47)	57
Team Youngblood (Image)	8	(48)	58
Daredevil (Marvel)	328	(50)	52

14 titles rise — 7 Marvel comics, 5 DC comics, 2 Image comics
19 titles fall — 12 Marvel comics, 5 DC comics, 2 Image comics
7 new entries — 3 DC comics, 2 Marvel comics, 1 Dark Horse and 1 Image comic
9 re-entries — 4 Image comics, 3 Marvel comics, 2 DC comics
The one non-mover is **Adventures of Superman**.
Highest new entry - **Superman/Doomsday: Hunter/Prey** #1 (DC).
Highest climber - **Incredible Hulk** 418 (Marvel) & **Gen-13** #3 (Image) both up 13.
Biggest drop - **Ghost Rider 2099** #2 (Marvel) down 36, followed by **Kindred** #1 (Image) down 19 places.
Highest re-entry - **X-Men Unlimited** #5 (Marvel) (a quarterly title).
Longest time out of chart: **Sandman**. #61 is the first chart appearance since #56.
Most appearances in top ten: **X-Men** & **Uncanny X-Men** - 8 consecutive months, **Spawn** - 7 months (including Batman team-up). **WildC.A.T.s** - 5 months. All have featured in the top ten continuously (when released) since its inception. **X-Men 2099** with 7 consecutive top ten places, dropped out last month.

Seven month breakdown:
% = number of titles in top 50

Comics International	#35	#36	#37	#38	#39	#40	#41	#42
Marvel	36%	34%	34%	38%	44%	40%	48%	48%
DC	20%	18%	18%	26%	26%	28%	30%	32%
Image	34%	32%	32%	22%	18%	24%	18%	18%
Dark Horse	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%
Valiant	6%	8%	6%	8%	4%	4%	2%	0%
Malibu	0%	2%	0%	0%	4%	0%	0%	0%
Defiant	2%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bongo	0%	0%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	0%

Family of titles analysis

X-family	20%	18%	16%	18%	22%	16%	20%	24%
Super-family	10%	8%	8%	14%	14%	14%	16%	16%
Bat-family	10%	6%	10%	10%	10%	12%	14%	12%
Spider-family	12%	8%	8%	10%	10%	12%	12%	14%

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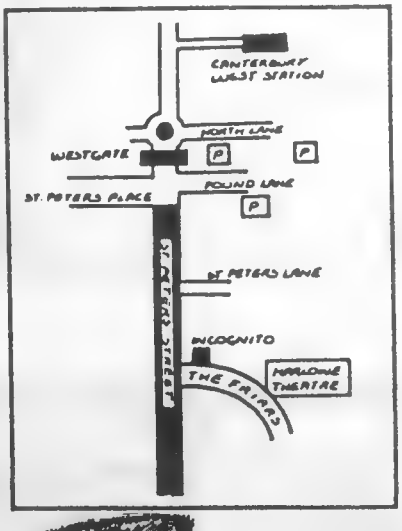

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Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry.

As such, the opinions stated do not necessarily reflect those of the publication, and space will be given in subsequent issues to opposing views. Editing of accepted manuscripts will be done only as a matter of grammar, clarity and space consideration.

Not glory days just gory days

Comment by Paul Taylor, Wrington, Bristol

TOWARDS the end of 1955 — just one year before I was born — DC Comics published issue 225 of **Detective Comics** and introduced The Martian Manhunter to the world.

It was the start of the Silver Age of comics.

By the time I was six years old, the **Justice League of America** had already been around for a couple of years. It took a holiday in Southsea and one of those revolving wire racks placed outside newsagents on the South Parade Pier to introduce me to them, by which time all of the original characters were in place.

Remember the roll call? Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Aquaman, Flash, Atom, Green Arrow and, of course, J'onn J'onnz.

There was one thing — apart from a dubious dress sense — that each of these fictional characters shared.....they were heroes. Those of us who regularly inhabited the world that existed between those shiny, four-colour process covers had been given some pretty powerful big brothers and sisters who were always there to take care of business when the going got tough.

It's not surprising that the early sixties saw a resurgence of the super-hero genre in the USA; there was a lot of fear around. Many of the writers and artists of this growing medium had lived through, if not fought in, WW2 and Korea and just when they thought it was safe to get back into the water, the big red shark came along and swallowed up Cuba.

The Russians were at the door. And as the Cold War grew colder, so the threat of The Bomb loomed ever larger in the nation's consciousness.

Unsurprisingly, the situation was much the same in the world of the comic book, where the Earth — regularly imperiled by a parade of Red Menace substitutes — was protected by a group of all-American boys and girls (even Superman and the green-skinned J'onn J'onnz were, to all intents and purposes, sons of The Land of the Free) ever-ready to risk life and limb in defence of the Red, White and Blue.

Although much of the writing seems, with hindsight, to have been fuelled by an inherent isolationism and xenophobia, there is one thing that shines through — a sense of morality. OK, so it was a homespun, small-town kind of morality where the good guys stood for truth and justice, while the bad guys...well, they were just plain bad. (If this 'Might is Right' attitude sounds just the teensie-weeniest bit Right-wing...well, thinking about it, I'm pretty sure that the original members of the JLA would have been more likely to vote for Bush than for Clinton.)

The important thing to remember is that these fictional characters existed within a moral framework, the motivation for their actions being purely altruistic — for the good of mankind. Money never entered the equation. These guys (and gal) held down second jobs and professional ones at that — journalist, police scientist, test pilot. OK, Bruce Wayne and Olly Queen had private incomes and Arthur Curry was royalty, but what I'm trying to point out is that they all played straight. They were honest citizens whose charitable work just happened to include saving the planet from time to time.

As a kid living in Birmingham in the early 60's I had my favourites. I would run up and down our road whirling my arms to create tornadoes while desperately trying to outpace Ford Zephyrs as they trundled past "like speeding bullets". And when someone else wanted to be Flash, I was Green Lantern; a too-big curtain ring on my index finger enabling me to 'fly' along the pavement conjuring up giant green boxing gloves and impenetrable force fields.

But that's all over now. Of course I haven't whirled my arms or recited the "In brightest day in blackest night" oath for some time now, but in the intervening years I *have* continued to read comics, all sorts of comics — but especially the 'everyday stories of Spandex folk'. Until now. Or more precisely until **Green Lantern** 50.

I've put up with a lot from DC in the past few years. Their none-too-successful attempt at revisionism with **Crisis**, the subsequent death of Barry Allen, the developing portrayal of Batman as unhinged and dangerously psychotic, Green Lantern as a gun-toting vigilante, Aquaman plagued by doubts as to his sanity, Wonder Woman developing an attitude problem and Hawkman....well, need I say more? Only Superman and the Martian Manhunter seemed to have escaped with their integrity intact and — so I thought — had Hal Jordan. But I forgot that Green Lantern's ring had one flaw, one weakness — it couldn't protect the wearer from anything yellow. Which is why he was finally felled by a stab in the back from that archest of enemies — The Yellow-Bellied Marketing Exec.

You can imagine how they arrived at his downfall.

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rid of him...we could kill him off... he could die in a noble act of self-sacrifice... nah, too sentimental...let's turn him into dark Green Lantern, a killer, one who goes over the edge and trashes the Guardians... then we could bring a new character on-stream...a teenager...someone that kids can identify with...yeah, now we're really cooking! Sales'll rocket!...and don't forget the merchandising tie-ins, we're talking potential big bucks here.."

Of course, the other alternative would have been to have lured one of the great comics writers to DC (John Byrne perhaps?) to breathe new life into the character and rebuild the Green Lantern myth. But why bother when the alternative is easier, cheaper and assured of much greater publicity (notoriety)?

And that, sadly, seems to be the state of the comics industry today with titles lurching from one lurid gimmick to the next. From 'Death of' storylines to foil-blocked hologram covers.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm the last person to want to return to those corny old stories of my childhood — I enjoy good writing as much as the next person. What I'm asking for is an element to counter-balance the prevailing steroid-pumped, metal-clawed, gun-wielding, 'is he a hero or is he a villain' crazies that have taken over the pages of my favourite titles.

Of course, the writers will always argue that they are only reflecting the reality of a grittier harsher modern world. But that's where they're missing the point. Superheroes don't belong to the real world — they never did. They're fantasy...inhabitants of a primary coloured realm that we can all escape to from the humdrum of the everyday.

So will my wish come true? I doubt it. The move towards darker, more brooding characters seems as well-entrenched in the old comics companies as in the newer creator-owned ones and I fear that only a fall-off in sales will incline them to think again upon the meaning of the term 'hero'.

Maybe it's just that I'm getting too old for comics. Perhaps it's time to stop buying before *all* my happy memories become tarnished.

In the letter column of GL 50, the title's assistant editor Eddie Berganza said, "Hal was either too nice or a jerk, leaving no lasting impression."

Wrong Eddie. To this six year old he'll always be a hero.

Marvel: writing by rote

Comment by Michael Sperlinger, Lee, London

JON Peters Dalton made some very pertinent points in his Comment (**Comics International**, #41). Points which I'd like to elaborate a little.

Jon talks about "writers who see it as just a job, not a pleasure" and goes on to pick out Fabian Nicieza as a prime example of this mentality. Absolutely — and Nicieza doesn't seem too reticent about it, either.

Take this recent insight of Fabe's: "We [Marvel] are a publishing company... and a publishing company's job is to make money publishing material. Hopefully, in a perfect world, that material is good, entertaining material."

Excuse me? Is this really a *writer* talking? I don't think so (and I'm sure anyone who's read one of his scripts will agree with me on that). He speaks like any anonymous moron from Marvel's middle management — which, of course, he is (or was, before he became a 'writer'). You mean we have to wait for a "perfect world" before Marvel produces something even *entertaining*? God help us! If Fabian's only desire is to produce something which sells, why doesn't he just write **X-Youngblood** or **Deathspawn**, and get some hot young airhead to dress it up in fancy linework and splash pages? Hey, if it works for Image. Hell, why not just produce pornographic comics, if profit's your only motive? Or comics full of disembowelments and decapitations for the 'sadist niche' in the market? After all, who cares if it's catering to the lowest common denominator, if it *sells*?

Well, I care for one. Call me old fashioned, call me idealistic, but I don't think any writer of substance could spout such mean-minded, short-sighted, capitalistic rubbish. The man who has no soul, and it shows, especially in what I shall laughingly refer to as his "writing." (I mean, could anyone read **X-Men** 30 without wincing at the crass script and retching at the maudlin sentiment?)

As previous columnists have noted in **Comics International**, Marvel is infested with the editor/writer syndrome — the "I'll write your book, you write mine" mentality which means that the vast majority of Marvel titles are written by former (or even current) editors, all incestuously editing one another.

Of course, there are the occasional diamonds in the rough; Peter David emerged from inauspicious beginnings in the sales department, Ann Nocenti (who does have her days) was an editor and, uh... uh... Can I get back to you on this one?

Recruiting from the company's bureaucrats is hardly a surefire way of Marvel to spot new talent. Indeed, it's actually a great way to pick out the most boring, unimaginative people possible for the job! (And by the way, in contrast to DC, when was the last time you saw Marvel recruit from the pages of 2000AD., hmmm?)

The result, as Nicieza proves, is writers with their beady eyes fixed on the bottom line; such writers have no conception of characterisation, style or even basic, honest-to-goodness plotting. Our one, desperate hope for this trend to be reversed is for Tom "Nepotism" DeFalco himself to get the elbow and for some bright young thing to decide it's time for a clear out.

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Ind	= US independent comics (non-newsstand titles)
Brit	= British comics & albums
frgn	= foreign language comics
u/g	= underground comics
gn	= graphic novels & trade paperback editions
STO	= standing order service, new comics reserved
RPG	= role playing games

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■ **Gary's Book & Comic Stall**, Site A65, The High Street, Walthamstow, London E17. Thur + Fri 10-5; Sat 8-5.30. Tube: Walthamstow Central (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO, annuals, children's books)

■ **Krypton Komics**, 252 High Rd, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur-Fri 9.30-7; Sat 9-6. Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, STO) 081-801 5378

■ **Readers Dream**, 100A Harlington Road West, Feltham (near Heathrow airport) Middx TW14 0JJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 excl Wed - closed (imp, back, gn, STO) 081-844 0780

■ **Skinny Melink's**, 66 Loampit Vale, Lewisham, London SE13. Mon-Thur 11- 6.30; Fri 11-7; Sat 10-6.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, ind s-p, u/g, gn, STO) 081-318 0499

■ **South London Book Centre**, 18-19 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 9JN. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat & Sun 9am-5.30pm (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, 2nd hand & new SF-horror-fantasy novels, art bks, bargain bks, remainders) 081 659 9714 or 081 853 2151

■ **Stateside Comics PLC**, 125 East Barnet Road, Barnet, Herts EN4 8RF. Mon-Wed 10.00-7.00; Thur-Fri 10.00-8.00; Sat 9.00-6.00; Sun 10.00-3.00 (later by appointment). (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, tv-film & fantasy, gn, STO) 081-449 5535

■ **They Walk Among Us**, 30 Union Court, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1AA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 excl Fri 9.30-6 (imp, merch, back, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, fantasy/s-f/horror books, sub-culture, STO, wants lists welcomed) Phone/fax 081 948 8476

■ **30th Century Comics**, Unit 12, Putney Market (1st Floor), Putney Exchange Shopping Centre, Putney High St., London SW15 1TW. Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00-6.00; Thu 9.00-7.00 (imp, back, ind, gn STO) 081 778 8094

■ **Time Trek**, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1TR. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.30 (late Thurs to 8) (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, sf TV & film related merch, STO) 081 313 0677

■ **Westside Comics**, 392 Uxbridge Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 0EL. Mon-Sat 10-6, late Thurs-Fri to 6.30. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO). 081-813 5019

SOUTH EAST

■ **American Comic Enterprise**, 1 Headgate Buildings, St John's Street, Colchester, Essex C02 7AD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts) 0206 561 912

■ **Cartoon Shop**, Upper Galleries, Eastgate Shopping Centre, Basildon, Essex. Mon - Wed & Sat 10-6, Thurs & Fri 10-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0268 534194

■ **Cartoon Shop, The**, 368 Chartwell West, Top Floor, Victoria Circus Shopping Centre, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG) 0702 613021

■ **The Comic Rocket**, 75a Camden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Mon-Wed 10.00 - 4.30; Thur-Fri 10.00 - 7.30; Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, gn, u/g, STO) 0892 518771

■ **Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements St, Oxford. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO) 0865-723680

● **Comics and Cards**, 84 St Mary Street, Southampton SO1 1NZ. Mon-Sat 8.00-7.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) phone/fax: 0703 235324

■ **David's Comics**, 3 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Fri 9.30-6; Sat 9-6. (imp, back, ind, u/g, Brit, STO, gn, exchange, club discount) 0273 690223

NEW **Incognito Comic Shop**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv related merch) phone/fax: 0227-785898

■ **Incognito Comic Shop**, 14 Starnes Court, Union St, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1EB. Mon-Fri 10.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, Brit, STO, film/tv related merch) phone/fax: 0622-683642

■ **Renegade Comics**, Unit 11, Elmes Arcade, High Street, Stevenage Old Town, Herts SG1 3EF. Mon -Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, v/g, gn, STO, RPG) 0438 747468

■ **Siegi's Comics & Bags**, Unit 3, 6 Orange St, Canterbury, Kent. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, tv SF, gum cards, sf memorabilia) 0227 470840

■ **Slough Computers**, 245 High Street, Slough, Berks SL1 1BN. Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, ind, gn, STO, Sega & Nintendo game carts) 0753 521594

■ **Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits) 0227 453226

■ **Wokingham Comics & Trading Cards**, Wokingham Indoor Market, Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire. Sats only (imp, back, ind, merch, gn, STO) 0734 790441

■ **Wonderworld**, 125 Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO5 3SQ. Tues-Sat 10-2, 3-6. (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0705 833 272

■ **Wonderworld**, 133 St Mary Street, Southampton S01 1NX. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures) 0703 634658

MIDLANDS

■ **Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0533 515266

■ **Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0602 484122

■ **Arrival Comics & Books**, 2 Broad Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; closed Thurs; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit) 0902-313 660

■ **Bookworm**, Unit 3, 33-39 Tower Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Mon-Sat 11.00 - 4.00 (back, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, fantasy & sf, early Penguins, general fic & non-fic, records) 0553 760904/771880

■ **Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0473 233017

■ **Comics Unlimited**, 4 Clair Court, Lime Street, Bedford MK40 1NH. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0234 218984

■ **Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, Brit, u/g, STO, RPG) 0462 480018

NEW **Demon Comics**, 102 Eastgate St, Gloucester GL1 1QT. Mon - Sat 10-6. (imp, back, merch, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, t-shirts, sci-fi models) 0452 330370

■ **Fantasy World**, 10 Market Square Arcade, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1NU. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn, STO, RPG, rock t-shirts, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0782 279294 (fax 0782 202381)

■ **The Final Frontier**, 29 St Nicholas Place, Leicester LE1 4LD. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.00. (imp, back, ind, Brit, gn, STO) Established 1984 0533 514347

■ **Ground Zero**, 11 Handley Arcade, Mansfield, Notts NG18 1NQ. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.00 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, STO, accessories) 0623 22017

■ **Magic Labyrinth**, 34-36 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RD Mon - Sat 9.30 - 6.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, u/g, frgn, merch, s-p, STO, RPG) 0533 518178 fax:0533 518179

■ **Mephisto Comics**, 81 Ber Street, Norwich, NR1 3RD. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 0603 762762

■ **New Worlds**, 22 West Parade, Lincoln LN1 1JT. Mon-Sat 9.30-4.30 excl Wed - closed. (comics, bks, mags, sf & fantasy specialists) 0522 530069

■ **Nowhere Comics**, Units 7-8 Guildhall Mews, Goodall St, Walsall. (top end of market) Mon-Thur 10.30-5.30, Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, videos) 0922 643352

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon - Thurs 9.15 - 5.45, Fri + Sat 9.15 - 6.00 (imp, back, merch, gn, ind, s-p, u/g, Brit, STO) 021 643 0143

■ **Planet X**, 5 London Road, Worcester. Fri-Sat only 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, STO-monthly) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, Virgin Megastore, 1st Floor, 98 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6SX. Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-8. (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, tv film & fantasy bks, gn, merch, STO) 021 236 5735 fax: 021 236 8153

■ **Time Zone**, 12 Fish Street (off Butcher Row), Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 1UR. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, RPG) 0743 365192

■ **Zoom Comics!!**, Unit 3 Inshops Centre, 65 South Parade, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham B72 1QX Mon-Sat 9.00-5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 021 354 7500

NORTH WEST

■ **Arcadia Comics**, 12 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7PT (next to Comet). Mon-Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, ind, horror-sf mags/bks, Dr Who, Trek, ltd merch & gn, Brit, STO, ltd toys & figures) 061 339 1816

■ **Equinox Books**, 444 Blackburn Road, Astley Bridge, Bolton, Lancs BL1 8NL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 9.30-4.00 (imp, back, merch, model kits, imp, manga, Trek, Dr Who) 0204 593348

■ **Imagination Station**, Unit 28, Portland Shopping Centre, Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA1 1NT. Mon - Sat 9 - 5.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO)

■ **Odyssey 7**, 21 Hanging Ditch, Corn Exchange Buildings, Manchester M4 3ES. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm. (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror books, postcards, videos, badges, soundtracks, stills, LF filmbooks, Star Trek, Doctor Who) 061 832 7044

■ **Odyssey 7**, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9RN. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm (imp, back, sf-fantasy-horror novels, postcards, posters, badges, stills, LF film books, Trek, Dr Who, etc) 061 273 6666

■ **Sartori Comics**, The Assembly Rooms, King Street, Lancaster. Thurs-Sat 10.00 - 4.30pm (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0524 733943 (after 6pm)

■ **Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Rd, Blackpool. 10-5.30 Tues, Thurs-Sat all year; Mon-Sun in season (closed Wed). Out of season open Wed, closed Sun-Mon. (imp, s-p, back, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, kits, gn, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0253-48321

■ **Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancs. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, limited u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, kits, t-shirts, media collectors' items) 0772-204287

■ **The Time Tunnel**, 66 Edleston Road, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7HD. Mon - Sat 10.00am - 5.30pm excl Weds. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, model kits, toys, action figures, Doctor Who, Star Trek)

■ **Worlds Apart**, Acorn Gallery, 16 Newington (city centre), Liverpool L1 4ED. Mon - Sat (excl Wed) 10-6; Wed 12-6 (imp, back, ind, merch, s-p, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, fantasy film mags) 051 707 0839

NORTH EAST

■ **Aardvark**, Unit 2, 6/10 Blenheim Walk, opposite Leeds University, Leeds LS2 9AQ, Yorks. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, ind, gn, STO) 0924 220729

■ **Armadillo**, 16-22 Anlaby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU1 2PA. Mon-Sat 10-6; late Thur-Fri to 8 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, u/g, STO, videos, ppbks) 0482 29787

■ **Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesborough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO, fantasy gn, film mags, Dr Who, Trek) 0642 249143

■ **Comicville**, Ground Floor, 54 The Arcade, The Piece Hall, Halifax HX1 1RE, Yorkshire. Tures-Fri 9.30-5; Sat 10-5 Sun 11-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, model kits, toys, Who, Trek, videos) 0374 482186

■ **Dells Comic Shop**, 87 Kirkgate, Bradford 1, Yorkshire. Mon-Sat 9-5 excl Wed 9- 3 (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, horror masks, tv fantasy mags) 0274 390 541

NEW **Fantasique**, 115 High St West, Sunderland (near Joplins). Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, STO, fantasy bks, manga) Discount cards available. 091 565 4485

■ **Hysteria Comics**, Unit 2, The Arches, Park Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 7PH. Mon-Sat 9-5 limp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, gn, STO, film mags) 0429 236952

■ **Nu Earth Comics**, 4 Davygate Centre, York Y01 2SU. Mon - Fri 10 - 5.30; Sat 9 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, art bks) 0904 611 461

■ **Nostalgia & Comics**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield, Yorkshire. Mon - Fri 10.00 - 6.00; Sat 9.15 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, original art, model kits, sf & fantasy gns, horror magazines, newspaper strip compilations) 0742 769475

■ **Odyssey**, 6 Harrison Street, off Vicar Lane, Leeds LS1 6PA. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, sf - fantasy - horror bks, posters, postcards, badges, stills, Star Trek, Doctor Who, etc) 0532 426 325

■ **Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield, Yorks. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.00 excl Wed. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, Star Trek items) 0742 758905

■ **Skyrack Book Service**, 51 The Superstore, Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8LY. Yorkshire. Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5pm; excl Weds: 9.30am - 1pm. (imp, back, ind, Brit, STO, SF hbk gn & magazines - many pulps) Estabi 1965.

■ **The Last Picture Show**, 40 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thur 10-8, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-7, Sun 12-5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, film-rock memorabilia) 0742 569604

WEST COUNTRY

■ **Comics & CDs**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00. (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, RPG, u/g, Brit, original art) 0272 244655

■ **Floppy Tongue Comics**, 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7QY. Mon-Fri 11.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0722 331107

Forbidden Planet, 30 Penn St., Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.30, Sat 10.00-6.00 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film & tv, videos, STO) 0272 298692

■ **The Hobbit Hole**, 9 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Mon 12-5.30; Tues-Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO, T-shirts, film-tv mags + merch) 0452 309 533

■ **Joy's Comics**, 25 High East Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1EZ. Mon - Sun 7.30 - 6. (imp back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, u/g, gn) 0305 269737 (after 6pm 833304)

■ **Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon - Fri 9.30 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO) 0752 257800

■ **Maelstrom Comics**, St Nicholas Market, Corn Street, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5. (imp, back, s-p, small merch, ind, u/g, gn, STO)

■ **Purple Haze**, 58 Eastlake Walk, Drake Circus, Plymouth, PL1 1BX (imp, back, ind, merch, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0752 254136

■ **Wonderworld**, 803 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 6AP. Tues-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, FRPG & miniatures, Games Workshop specialist stockist) 0202 422 964

ISLE OF WIGHT

■ **Astounding Comics**, 61 Pyle Street, Newport, Isle of Wight P030 1UL. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, gn, STO, RPG, videos) 0983 525320

WALES

■ **Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sats only 9.30-5 (imp, back s-p, merch, ind, gn, STO, videos; estabi 12 yrs) 0222 563005

NEW **Comics & Collectibles**, Stall 69, Pontypridd Indoor Market, Mid-Gmaorgan, South Wales. Wed, Fri, Sat 9.30-4.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, gn, STO, model kits, tradsing card specialists)

■ **Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, film/tv mags, RPG, Games Workshop stockists) 0792 642097

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30 excl Thurs 10.00 - 6.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 0222 228885

■ **Journey into Mystery**, The Emporium, 34 Castle Arcade, Cardiff. Tues - Fri 11.00 - 5.30; Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, gn, STO, indie records & cds)

■ **Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.00pm. (imp, back, s-p, ind, gn, Brit, STO) 0633 222159

SCOTLAND

■ **The Adventure Zone**, 280 High St, Glasgow G4 0QR. Mon-Wed 9.30-6, Thurs 9.30-7, Fri-Sat 9.30-6, Sun 10-5 (imp, back, ind, Brit, u/g, STO, frgn, s-p, s-f bks, tv-related supplies, videos, models, memorabilia, Who, Trek, etc 041-946 7607 (after 7pm)

■ **AKA Books & Comics**, 25 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5RJ. Mon-Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, frgn, gn) 041 552 6692

■ **All Winners**, 27 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh EH1 2QG. Mon -Sat 10-5.30; Sun 1-5 (trading card specialists: sport & non-sport + mags) 031 226 2774

■ **Black Hole Comic Shop**, The Market Hall, Wellgate Centre, Dundee. Mon - Sat 9.00 - 5.30 (imp, back, ind, u/g, STO) 0382 21037

■ **City Centre Comics**, 31-35 Parnie St, Glasgow G1. Mon-Sat 10.00-5.30, Sun 12-5. (back issues only) 041 552 6692 or 041-632 2786 after 6pm

■ **Earth 2 Comics**, Argyle Shopping Centre, 28 Argyle St, Glasgow G2 8AD. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00; Sat 10-5.30. (back, gn, ind, merch) 041-647 6810 (after 6pm)

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 2 - 3 Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2QZ. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 5.30, excl Thurs till 6.30. (imp, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, frgn, gn, STO) 031-225 8613

■ **Forbidden Planet**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon - Wed 10 - 5.30; Thurs + Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, ind, merch, u/g, Brit, gn, STO) 041 331 1215

■ **Future Shock**, 89 Byres Road, Partick, Glasgow G11. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, merch, ind, u/g, Brit, gn, STO, SF & horror gn & hbk, film bks & mags, artwork, jewellery) 041 339 8184

■ **Kaos Komics and Kollectables**, 19 Diamond Street, Aberdeen AB1 1QU. Mon-Sat 10-6; Thurs till 8; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, gn, STO, jewellery, crystals, t-shirts) 0224 620212

■ **Plan 9 Comics**, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB1 1NE. Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30 (Thurs till 8), Sun 1 - 5. (imp, back, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, RPG specialist, board games, figures, STO) 0224 624467

■ **Stateside Comics PLC at Virgin**, 28-32 Union Street, Glasgow, G2 7LZ. Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9-6; Tues 9.30-6; Thurs 9-7; Sun 12-5.30. (imp, back, ind, s-p, merch, Brit, gn, STO) 041 221 2915; Fax 041 221 2916

NORTHERN IRELAND

NEW **Big Comics**, 126-128 Donegall Pass, Belfast BT7 1BZ. Saturday 9.30 - 5.00 only (back issues: '60s to present) 0232-715205 (eves)/0232 232041 (Sats)

■ **Dark Horizons**, 30a Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4LD (near City Hall) Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO, subculture, film mags) 0232-233808

■ **Talisman Comics**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon - Sat 9.30 - 5.30. (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, Brit, u/g, gn, STO) 0232-438744

CHANNEL ISLANDS

■ **Music & Video Exchange**, 11a La Motte Street, St Helier, Jersey. Mon - Sat 10.00 - 6.00 (back, ind, Brit, u/g, records, videos, hi-fi) 0534 36606

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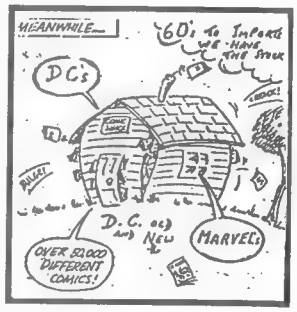

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The individual issue is also rated within the confines of its previous issues. Hence a comparatively dull title may get a low number but a high rating for the specific issue reviewed (ranging from <-> to <+ + +> if there has been a notable improvement.

***Reviews Editor:** Sarah Bolesworth*
Reviewing panel: Fabio Paolo Barbieri (FPB), Carl Bateman (CB), Katie & Matthew Blakstad-Cooke (KMBC), Michael Graney (MG), Phil Hall (PH), Rol Hirst (RH), Richard J Johnston (RJJ), Skinny Melink (SM), David Pollock (DP), Peter C Phillips (PCP), Michael Sperlinger (MS)

DC COMICS

Adventures of Superman 512 <- -> (Kesel & Kitson + McCarthy) Massive fight scene ahoy! Bulked-up Superman butts heads with the Parasite, wrecking the Moon in their kick-up. Meanwhile, Lois loses her apartment, Luthor loses his marbles — and I lose interest rapidly. Sorry, guys. (RH) **3**

American Freak 3 (Louapre & Locke) This series has proved a real surprise — rather than the horror rehash I expected — and it really works. A sketchy style that lends itself equally to landscape and deformed humans brings this dark fairy story to life. Fully formed characters developed beyond the superficial keep the continuing story of Arcane's legacy bold and believable. (RJJ) **9**

Anima 2 <-> (Witcover + Hand & Davis + Ivy) The dreaded second-issue blues strike as the many sub-plots set into motion in **Anima** 1 don't cohere, making a bitty issue. Artist Malcolm Davis obviously suffered scheduling problems, the last pages being especially poor. Nonetheless, an interesting, thoughtful title, grounded in Jungian psychology. (FPB) **7**

Animal Man 71 (Delano & Braun + Sutton) The most under-rated Vertigo title proves its worth yet again. With Buddy's metamorphosis into an animal almost complete, it takes a phone call to bring him back from the edge, only to be faced with his own mortality. If you liked *The Bird's*, you'll love this! Jamie is also the only writer to encompass the repercussions of *Children's Crusade* in his book. Surprising, since he showed so much disdain for it at GlasCAC! (RJJ) **8**

<+> Good issue from this see-saw title, with guest artist Russell Braun a notable improvement on regular artist Steve Pugh, though Delano still hasn't exhibited a firm command of things. (SM) **8**

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 60 <+ -> (O'Neil & Baretto) Alfred hires the new Batman to watch over Bruce Wayne as his master comes closer to stopping Asp in his tracks. O'Neil's characterisation of Alfred is always spot on, but the rest is pretty iffy. Nice art, though. (RH) **5**

Even though *Knightfall* has been a deeply cynical exercise on the part of the publisher, it was a sign of the suspense that's been built up that the meeting of Alfred and Az-Bats was so electric. A *proper* Batman story, reminding us of what Denny O'Neil is really capable of when backed by a competent artist like Baretto. (KMBC) **7**

Books of Magic 1 (Rieber & Amaro + Gross) A reasonably good start to Tim Hunter's regular series, but I do have some problems with this issue. It's implied that Tim's parentage is of faerie origin — which I think is a mistake. Having an ordinary teenager with such enormous magical potential I feel is more interesting than just another mystical being (even if Tim doesn't feel *mystical*). Also Amaro's art really doesn't make his faerie folk look *faerie* enough, especially when compared to Charles Vess's lovely cover art. (MG) **6**

It's a mistake to put *Mature Readers* label on this — it would strike a chord with any alienated fourteen year old. Amaro's art and the high quality finishing are among the most beautiful we've seen from Vertigo. This book captures real magic — the intangible stuff that makes us read comics. (KMBC) **9**

Damage 1 (Joyner & Marimon + McWeeney) A teenager arrives at a new school, meets hot babe, has a run in with school bully — and develops superhuman — make that destructive — abilities. Sound familiar? Superb visuals make up for the feeling of *deja vu*, even if this hero is meant to be linked to a DC old-timer. (PCP) **4**

Doom Patrol 77 (Pollack & McKeever) In this edition of another under-rated title, Cliff gets rebuilt, Chief gets snottier and Kate and Cliff reach an understanding that looks as if it might be stretched a tad far! Rachel is still exploring interesting themes in **Doom Patrol**, and she could do with a little positive critical acclaim! (RJJ) **8**

Flash 90 <+> (Waid & Weirango + Marzan) After assaulting a lawyer in open court, the Flash is banned from using his powers in Keystone City and becomes a fugitive to prove himself victim of a complex frame-up. Wally is more driven than normal, but Waid thankfully avoids the temptation to drag the plotline out, leading the book in a new direction as a result. (RH) **9**

<+> The outlawed Flash confronts Abra Kadabra using a clever death-trap scenario. Weirango gets better with each issue. (PCP) **7**

Green Lantern 51 <+> (Marz & Banks + Tanghal) Freelance artist Kyle Rayner becomes Earth's newest Green Lantern — aided by his freelance photo-journalist girlfriend. Every comic book cliche is given an outing in this much touted revamp. That it didn't need fixing appears beyond the point, dumping 35 years of history gives new readers a jumping-on point — though whether new readers will be attracted in order to do so remains to be seen. (PCP) **5**

Hawkman 9 <+ +> (Loebs & Lieber + various) Chicago's metahuman freaks try desperately to fit into normal society while an angry force heads to Earth. Bill Loebs takes over as writer, bringing some character touches to Hawkman that made his work in **Flash** and **Dr Fate** so enjoyable. Shame about the patchy art. (RH) **8**

Hellblazer 77 (Ennis & Snejbjerg) A teaser from Ennis, with Constantine's friend Chas relating the tale of John's "death" but unable to fill in the gaps about his resurrection. It's an intriguing tale, and Snejbjerg — while no Dillon — does a good job handling both the horror and the humour. (MS) **8**

Peter seems to be Vertigo's run-around artist at the moment, and is popping up everywhere. This issue shows Garth's strengths — there's a supernatural storyline, but only as a story told by one of a pub crowd. Lots of human integration and reaction... surely Garth should be writing something more like his **Troubled Souls**, or a **Love & Rockets**-type book. On **Hellblazer**, he is often wasted. (RJJ) **8**

<+> Chas tells a tale from Constantine's past, a frightening story of a Victorian ghost under the stairs. Then Constantine is back for a reconciliation with his best mate, giving us probably the best portrayal of Chas yet. (RH) **9**

<+ -> Yet another pub crawl, with a bit about Constantine's past marred somewhat by guest penciller Snejbjerg's grotesque art. Ennis has followed a riveting series with several below-par issues, but better things are promised. (SM) **7**

Legion of Super-Heroes 57 (McCraw & Taylor) Is this progress? They fire the writers in favour of the colourist and fill the book with meaningless action just to fit a new corporate direction. The Legion has seen very many new (and often controversial) directions but this is just hollow. It doesn't even have Immomen's immaculate art to recommend it. (KMBC) 2

The Mystery Play (Morrison & Muth) An astounding, visionary, obtuse and utterly indescribable story; part mystery, part religious allegory, partly a dissection of modern mores, and much, *much* more besides, this is an astoundingly good piece of writing. Moreover, it's brought to vivid life by Muth, with some of the most breathtaking painting ever to grace a comic! I was left bewildered and awed; it deserves widespread acclaim. (MS) 10

A small town staging religious mystery play is shaken when the actor playing God is killed. Grant Morrison deconstructs the murder mystery, offering more twists and turns along the way than a whole series of *Inspector Morse* and ending with a climax of literally Biblical proportions. Jon Muth's art is gorgeous. I'd expected to criticise the high cover price, but this was worth every penny. (RH) 10

Despite doses of incomprehensible (to all but Morrison) symbolism, this is largely a strong, intriguing story with some fascinating moments, beautifully painted by Muth — one of the few comic artists whose characters resemble real people. A little bit pricey, but overall a nice package. (SM) 8

The Ray 1 (Priest & Porter + Jones) Despite the gold embossed "enhancement" the cover looks flat and drab — hardly justifying the £2.00 cover price — and the contents fail to justify it either. On the plus side, the depiction of the Ray continues to be visually distinctive, and at least when the two heroes fight each other it has some credibility as a clash of egos. Still, £2.00 is grossly over-priced for this meagre fair; as a regular comic it would pass as an averagely inoffensive read, but for a premiere — despite the refreshing honest final panel — it's all rather disappointing, right down to the cliched "let's-start-in-the-middle-of-the-action-then-flashback-to-explain-what-the-hell's-happening" structure. Oh God, where are the worthwhile comics hiding? (CB) 5

Christopher Priest (aka Jim Owsley) re-introduces the Ray with a giant fight scene involving Brimstone and Superboy. We've seen it all before, including the attempts to show life as a teenager — come on guys, this is just what Marvel was doing in **Spider-Man** 20 years ago, but without the charm. (RH) 5

Sandman 59 (Gaiman & Hempel + D'israeli) Many have been knocking Hempel's art in this comic, but his cartoony, angular strokes bring both harshness, innocence and bleak normality to a depressing storyline. Hob Gadling returns, Barnabas gets

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turned into fishes and Lyta's Fury-nature is emerging still. Dream had better watch out. (RJJ) 8

<+++> Picking up speed at last, this is the best issue of **Sandman** in over a year. It's nice to see the immortal Hob Gadling again, Dream seems to be visiting all his old acquaintances in preparation for the Furies. After this, my confidence in Gaiman is restored. (RH) 9

<+ -> A nicely crafted issue, where Morpheus has one of his periodic meetings with Hob and Lyta comes to the wrong conclusion about who is responsible for her son's apparent murder. One of Gaiman's strengths is the ability to structure his stories so that every character is seemingly of equal importance to the plot, not simply there to make up the numbers, as in some other writers' work. Hempel's art style has now won me over sufficiently to make me a fan. (MG) 8

Sandman 60 (Gaiman & Hempel + D'israeli) Lyta is dreaming, and in her dreams she is meeting the stars of the Sandman. In reality, the two angels who rule Hell have returned to Earth to ask Lucifer to take the job back. His manic screaming laughter — emphasised by Hempel's angular pencils — is quite, quite wonderful. As Lucifer tells them: "You didn't join the rebellion not because I was wrong, but because you were too damned scared." This comic is moving towards a crescendo. I'm just enjoying the ride! (RJJ) 9

Shade, the Changing Man 47 (Milligan & Bachalo + Bryant) A superb, sublimely plotted issue — absolutely engaging, gorgeously structured — and witty to boot. Milligan never forgets the human side to all his weird and wonderful creations, while Bachalo proves himself capable of making the quietest scene a veritable visual tour de force. (MS) 9

Shade has had some off periods in its history, but it is right back with a cutting edge this issue. Character conflict, reconciliation and a plot that seems to be building to an issue 50 bonanza... Shade is torn and his madness is letting loose. The angels are still harassing him — and this comic includes the best pull-line I have ever heard... gotta try it at the club tonight! These characters are just so tragic, you've got to care for them. (RJJ) 9

<+ -> Lenny's daughter shows up in time to hitch a ride with Shade back to Meta, while Pandora and Shimmy search for ways to satisfy their over-active libidos. Plotlines come together just when I feared they were about to fall apart, and Bachalo's art is as weird and wonderful as always. (RH) 9

Unlike Milligan's free-association surreal stuff, the current storyline is a fairly straightforward examination of the interplay between the characters. He has a terrific grasp of these people he "cannot bear to leave," and we are captivated. Bachalo's artwork has a beauty and dryness that complements the language perfectly. (KMBC) 9

Spectre 18 <+ -> (Ostrander & Mandrake) A classic showdown involving the Spectre, Eclipso, a host of supernatural guest stars and Heaven itself, with explosive art from Mandrake and a script that never allows the guests to be mere costumes. (RH) 8

<+> Two communities clash over the death of a small boy; when the Spectre intervenes he finds a demonic connection. This issue manages to successfully navigate its way around the complex moral dilemma raised here: that a judgment of good and evil isn't absolute, it can simply come down to which side of an argument you believe in. (MG) 8

Star Trek Special 1 (David & Whigham + Starr + Collins + Pallot) Peter David is always at home writing **Star Trek** and the humour he elicits from each character makes each issue a joy to read. Here, Kirk is brought down a few pegs — by a woman, no less! **Star Trek** is always a good talking heads comic, and when Peter is involved it becomes excellent. The Mike Collins back-up (filling in Spock bits between the third and fourth films) seems in contrast like a space filler, but is probably a must for die-hard Spock fans. (RJJ) 7

Two adventures, the first involving R J Blaise and her love-hate relationship with Jim Kirk. The second story focuses on Spock and the events immediately following the close of *Star Trek III*, which should please all fans of the Trek mythos. For once though, Peter David is upstaged by the Mike Collins episode, drawing much from TV and movie legends. (PCP) 8

Superboy 4 <-> (Kesel & Grummett + Parobeck) Something of a filler issue, which seems to be stalling for time as the plots in the Superman books catch up with Superboy. Rex Leech unveils his official Superboy cartoon show — to much scorn and derision — and the Teen of Steel collapses with the mystery clone disease. (RH) 5

Superman 89 <+ -> (Jurgens & Rubinstein) A pumped-up Superman, looking almost like Rob Liefeld had drawn him, heads into space to try and bring his powers under control. Meanwhile, Lois is sacked from the **Daily Planet** as a dying Luthor gets his revenge. Moving slowly, but still reasonably entertaining. (RH) 5

Superman/ Doomsday: Hunter/ Prey 1 (Jurgens & Breeding) Doomsday and the cyborg Superman arrive on Apokolips, quickly trouncing everything Darkseid throws at them. As with the Death of Superman saga, this is action-based, but offers nice art and a rare opportunity to see Clark scared by an opponent. Shame, once again, about the over-priced format. (RH) 7

Superman: Man of Steel 33 <+>

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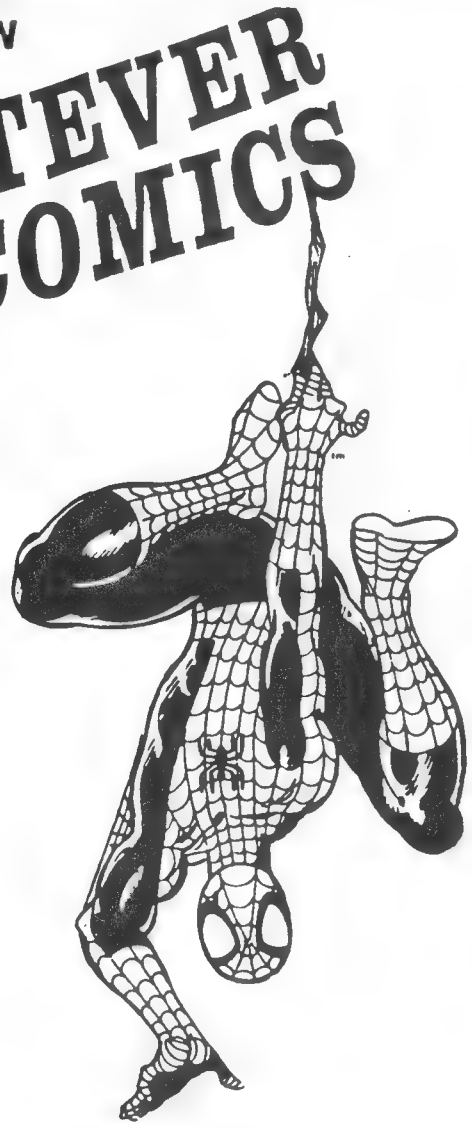

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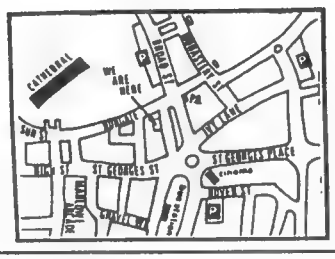

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(Simonson & Bogdanove + Janke) Jon Bogdanove's art for once doesn't look *too* over the top in this story, for Superman is supposed to be pumped-up far more than usual as his weight and powers continue to increase due to exposure to a new form of Kryptonite. Everything that goes around... (RH) **5**

Superman: Man of Steel Annual 3 (Priest & Bright + Shoultz) An *Elseworlds* tale where Kryptonians have invaded Earth following the destruction of their homeworld. Freedom fighters Bruce Wayne and Lex Luthor (on the wrong side as usual) both play major roles in the birth of a new Superman, the first Kryptonian to be born on Earth. A nice idea, and pretty well executed at that. (RH) **7**

The potential problem with *Elseworlds* is that the story loses out to the concept. A promising book with some excellent characterisation (a grown-up '70s Superboy meets Miller's Dark Knight) that fell into the trap. Disappointing art from M D Bright — but despite all that, a fairly entertaining read. (KMBC) **5**

Swamp Thing 142 (Morrison + Millar & Hester + Demulder) Morrison and Millar have distilled a tale of pure, unadulterated, visceral horror to turn the steadiest stomach. One of the most effective horror pieces I've ever read, this issue is only slightly diluted by a scratchy art style, but even this has its own fascination... (MS) **9**

One for all you Barry Allen completists out there, facades begin to fall and Alec finds out the truth about his reformed identity. This comic is still reminding me of Byrne's Hulk story — but handled in a mature, deep manner. Alec is still being played for a fool but the protagonists are shadowed, and they don't look much like denizens of the Green to me! (RJJ) **8**

<+> Alec Holland finds out the truth behind his split from the Swamp Thing as the mindless creature itself attacks Abby. This includes a few trademark Morrison touches — the horrors of Alec's ride on the Soul Train are reminiscent of **Doom Patrol**, but mostly this appears to be Millar's book, and is getting better all the time. (RH) **8**

<-> After a promising start, the much hyped revamp of the Swamp Thing has fizzled; this issue is virtually redundant as little of any consequence is revealed — though the art team at least manages to maintain a creepy feel. (SM) **6**

<+> Alec finds out that he is the human template torn from Swampy and that he must eventually confront the Parliament of Trees. An improvement on the last issue, but I feel that in the storyline there's too much reliance on small, nasty set pieces designed to horrify rather than generate unease. (MG) **6**

Valor 19 <+> (Waid & Doran) Valor is dead, replaced by the futuristic sub Legionnaire's Valor — who was cloned from the now dead Valor — who still exists in the future. Got that? Yep, it's one of those time paradox plots that give fans and continuity buffs headaches at which Mark Waid excels, though the Doran/McDowell visuals may not be to everyone's liking. The presence of Waverider and the Linear men helps mix the brew. (PCP) **7**

Wonder Woman 86 <- -> (Loebs & Parker + McClellan + Conrad) The current trend for heroes "taking the gloves off" (after disaster strikes their loved ones) hits Wonder Woman — and I'd have thought *this* book at least would be safe. Disappointing stuff from Loebs, and the guest art is really shabby. (RH) **4**

MARVEL COMICS

Amazing Spider-Man 389 <+ + +> (DeMatteis & Bagley + Emberlin) After weeks of whingeing about how awful this latest Spider-Man story was, I'm forced to eat some of my words with the return of ace-Spidey writer Marc DeMatteis. Packing more characterisation, plot twists and excitement into one issue than Michelinie managed in six months, DeMatteis does the impossible, providing a plausible explanation for the death of Peter's parents. A definite silk purse from sow's ear situation. (RH) **9**

<+++> I didn't believe that Marvel could hype such lame Spider-Man stories as they have in the last few months without having a sting in the tale — and boy, what a sting! The revelation in the Parker's parents story is, simply, essential reading and the final two pages astonishing comics storytelling. (PH) **9**

Brats Bizarre (Mills & Skinner Mighten & Adhikary) Well, it's finally out and it's not what I expected. Far from a reprint of the **Toxic!** series, it's taking the concept afresh. While the absence of a full comic by Duke is unfortunate, this media/government superhero concept is handled in a far superior way to that in **Youngblood**, by letting us get inside the heads of the characters. The gratuitous nudity has been toned down, too. (RJJ) **8**

Ghost Rider 2099 1 (Kaminski & Bachalo + Buckingham) Gorgeous artwork. Stunning artwork. They drag you kicking and screaming into a wonderful... uh, story? Not much that I can see. But who wants a story, right? (RJJ) **6**

Groo 112 <+> (Aragones + Evanier) When Rufferto is killed Groo swears vengeance, and wreaks havoc until he finds the murderer. Ah, but this is a humour book, so the faithful pet isn't really dead and the havoc is pretty funny. Still, I felt more emotion at seeing Groo mourn his pooch than the collective deaths and disasters in

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Superman, Batman and Spider-Man put together. (RH) **9**

Hellstorm 14 (Ellis & Gross) Daimon and Jaine Cutter search the New York streets for a magician killer while wifey Patsy finally shuffles off the mortal coil. Lots of humour from Isaac the gargoyle; dubious morals, cigarettes, sex, violence... ah, lovely. Gross's art is refreshing too. (RH) **9**

Incredible Hulk 417 (David & Frank + Smith) The prelude to Rick's wedding promises great things to come. David plays this one for laughs and the result is hilarious, one of his funniest scripts; but he also keeps his characters well in sight and maintains his more serious sub-plots without ever marring the comic tone. (MS) **10**

The best comic being produced by Marvel gets better. Agonize as the Hulk breaks down in tears. Applaud as Peter finally unequivocally states Hector's sexual preferences and laugh hysterically as Ulysses has a go on the Surfer's board, the Thing goes blind, Cap gets embarrassed while Vision's Data-like observations grate. (RJJ) **9**

<++> On the eve of Rick Jones's wedding bachelor and bachelorette parties cause much chaos and amusement — David proves himself a master of comedy, something I thought he'd forgotten. Great stuff, reminiscent of classic Giffen/DeMatteis JLA. (RH) **9**

Marvel Age 136 The highlight of this Marvel puff-piece is a Neil Gaiman article about the upcoming Alice Cooper comic book. Presented in one of Neil's strange storytelling book-ends, it's left me with a great desire to get the thing. The rest of the magazine is piffle and there are some trading cards somewhere, too. Never mind. (RJJ) **5**

Marvels 4 (Busiek & Ross) Still a gorgeous series, this issue gets a little bleaker as the superhero hate herds march around the Marvel Universe. Phil gets himself a mission to clear Spider-Man and begins to find his work unsatisfying. The Marvels are now much closer and their actions more accessible — the realisation that they can fail takes the marvel out of them for Phil. This comic is unique, yet it draws so much comics history. Whatever sequels are released, this comic will stand as a masterpiece. (RJJ) **9**

The deaths of George and Gwen Stacy are retold through the eyes of photographer Phil Sheldon, a man desperately trying to prove Spider-Man's innocence. We see the first realistic vision of what the Marvel Universe looks like — and it's a wonderful, magical place. (RH) **10**

<+ -> Fitting wind-up to an excellent series, highlighted by Alex Ross's gorgeous paintings and plenty of fun to be had reading the small print, picking out the celebrities in the crowd (Peter Townsend and John Cazale this issue, and wasn't that Laura Palmer I saw?). For a change, a follow-up is definitely called for. (SM) **10**

<+ -> The story shifts now to the '70s, and Phil is feeling increasingly frustrated with peoples' hostile attitude toward the Marvels, but disillusionment and tragedy in the shape of Gwen Stacy lie ahead. What has really made this series work for me is Alex Ross's photo-realist style, powerfully conveying the sheer sense of awe that would be felt by a normal person when confronted with the super-beings of the Marvel Universe. But this doesn't reduce Busiek's script — which hits the notes for an ordinary man in an extraordinary world story. (MG) **9**

Sachs and Violens 2 (David & Perez) It's been a long wait, but worth it. This second issue is just as painstakingly drawn and scripted, if a little darker in tone, and the story is again gripping. But while David is undoubtedly aware of the moral ambiguities he's playing with, I wonder if the light tone is entirely the apt approach. (MS) **9**

Spider-Man & X-Factor: Shadow-games 1 (Busiek & Broderick + Patterson) Perhaps this story of Spidey and X-Factor battling government supervillains is considered too *good* for the regular titles. Although a straight team-up story, it's head and shoulders above anything **Web**, **Spectacular** or the indescribable book have offered in a while. Good fun. (RH) **7**

Uncanny X-Men 312 (Lobdell & Madureira + Green/Vey) Fair old effort at introducing a new villain in the form of the Phalanx, capably orchestrated by a notably improving Lobdell and hot artist *du jour*, Madureira. (MS) **8**

Wolverine 81 <+ -> (Hama & Adam Kubert) It's strange seeing Marvel imitating Image, but these double size splash pages must be what the fans want — apparently they don't want much in the way of character or originality since both are largely missing from this title of late. It's saved from the junk pit primarily by Kubert's fine art, though at times the eye finds it difficult to focus on what's going on. (SM) **6**

X-Men Classic 95 (Claremont & Romita Jr + Green) The brief Avengers crossover concludes in a story which, while imaginative, is a good example of Claremont's tendency to over-write. Still, at least with *this* crossover, I only had to buy one comic — cue the usual nostalgic tirade... (MS) **7**

INDEPENDENTS

Aesop's Desecrated Morals 1 (Magnecom/Rip Off Press; Wheeler & various) Artists include Gilbert, Loebs, Thompson, Kelley Jones, Foglio, Vess, Geary and Russell. The tales of Aesop get a mix-up as a slice of reality is added to those animal fables you remember from youth. The animals get their revenge on Aesop; the turtle takes drugs to beat the hare, a fox gets crushed by a rhino and comic speculators get dumped on. Brilliant, fantastic book, that you'll never be able to find because your comic shop won't have ordered it. (RJJ) **8**

Aliens-Predator: The Deadliest of the Species 5 (Claremont & Barreto) This series is turning into a curate's

egg. While dream sequences and surreality are great foreshadowers, they're unsubtle here and the female bonding references are a little stretched. However, there's a great "Predator has killed the X-Men" on page three which makes up for all of that — I'll stick with this series, Claremont is renowned for rising from a bad patch. Let's see how it goes, hm? (RJJ) 6

Axis Alpha (Axis Comics; Various) A collection of humdrum strips with a sneaky appearance of Pitt, Axis showcases as its talent. Apart from Johnson and Stroman's *Tribe* there seems to be little; but the variety of art styles is impressive in that it isn't all Extreme clones. (RJJ) 5

Big Mouth 3 (Fantagraphics Books; Moriarty & various) Big Mouth is the opposite of **American Splendour.** Every strip is drawn by Pat Moriarty (almost) and written by others. Writers include Bagge, Barr (a Dessert Peach strip, all you collectors!), Gary Groth and amazingly enough, Penn and Teller! Yes, those wacky American magicians now live over here and do a one-page strip which Teller writes and Penn inks. Teller talks in it, too! We also get to see Teller's mom. The Bagge strip is excellent... Pat tends to mould his drawing style to fit the writer and the story really well. Gary Groth's enemy list is most amusing, as is Mary Fleener's tale of sexual rejection and acceptance. Well done! (*Enough praise already - Ed*) (RJJ) 8

Bone 13 (Cartoon Books; Jeff Smith) Poor old Fone Bone — still lovestruck by Thorn, and now he's having a strange, symbolic dreams too. Absolute magic, a spellbinding read — buy it! (MS) 9

<+ -> Fone Bone's obsession with Moby Dick begins to haunt his dreams, while his crush on Thorn develops and fills his waking hours. Jeff Smith doesn't rush his story, taking the time to fill in the little details of Boneworld that make this book so enjoyable. (RH) 9

Danger Unlimited 2 (Dark Horse; Byrne & Dwyer) This comic book is beginning to set up cliches, but not as well handled as Mignola's **Hellboy**. The resemblance to the FF cuts too close, but the future sequences foretell much of what is to come. Despite two-dimensional characters, this could be one to watch, very much a comic of ideas rather than substance. The back-up, *Torch of Liberty*, does the opposite. The comic seems a tribute to Kirby's First and Third stages and fulfils its task well. (RJJ) 7

Femforce 70 (AC; Black & Black + various) Tara and Nightveil discover the real secret of Taragonia in the wrap-up of the Jungle girls storyline. Well executed, though Nightveil's involvement in every major development is wearing thin. Darkfire fills the back-up slot. (PCP) 6

Flare 16 <++> (Heroic; Mallonee & various) After a weird little opening item apparently written by two teenage girls, the serious business of the day: somebody wants to keep Flare in Los Angeles. As usual with Mallonee's best writing, the froth conceals some intelligent points and merits re-reading. (FPB) 7

Freex 7 <+ -> (Jones & Herrera + Christian) The unhappy teens finally fall apart, with Lewis's concern for wounded Ruby alienating the others, who are worried about the lynch mob that tried to kill them. Good character-driven soap opera with convincingly confused teenagers, marred only by formulaic redneck villains. (FPB) 7

From Hell 4 (Kitchen Sink; Moore and Campbell) The killer strikes again and unscrupulous journalists begin to see some sales potential — given some creative writing, of course. As chilling as ever, with a particularly effective supernatural scene — but why does Moore feel the need to reveal so much in the appendices? As he should know, some mysteries are far better left unexplained. (MS) 9

At last we are onto the post-Taboo chapters and **From Hell** is keeping its excellent stride. The sketchy artwork of Eddie serves to complement Moore's dramatic vision and we even get glimpse into the 20th century. Not for the squeamish, the story delves into the mind of the psychopath of Jack the Ripper and the groundwork is laid for the "From Hell" letter. Excellent. (RJJ) 9

Good Girl Art Quarterly 15 (AC; various) Stardust is tricked into marketing imitation Span-XX in this tongue-in-cheek short, while Dawn Hunter confronts evil-doers destroying South American rain forests. Usual reprints with spy themes round it out, and a photo-report on Glamourcon. (PCP) 5

Hectic Planet 6 (Dorkin & Dyer) A bag of delight — great one-liners, blinding art and characters you think you already know. You *need* this comic, you really do. (KMBC) 8

Hellboy 1 (Dark Horse; Mignola + Byrne) Mignola's supernatural secret agent is interesting and his art is as good as ever, but Byrne's script is a little bland. The Art Adams back-up is readable and nicely illustrated but hardly inspiring. (MS) 6

With a samey plot, Mignola has transcended the inherent cliches of a Nazi story and made it powerful. The starkness of Mignola's artwork complements the cartoony look of Art Adams back-up as a Monkeyman invades from another dimension. What a great comic! (RJJ) 8

As soon as I finished issue one, I wanted issues two, three and four. Vampire frog people, Nazi illuminati and conspiracies all in one comic? It's too good. Mignola's art is better than ever and the back-up Monkeyman strip is a tantalising start. Please — make Hellboy an ongoing series! (KMBC) 9

John Byrne's Next Men: Power 1 (Dark Horse; Byrne + Webb) The Next Men virus has officially spread and John has set up the future of his Byrneverse, with a get-out already built in. Mark IV is now dragged into the main Next Men story and an uneasy alliance is built. You can hear Byrne ticking as he constructs his long-term story. Should be a lot

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of fun. (RJJ) 8

<+ -> In a spin reminiscent of Stephen King's nightmare for novelist books (*Misery* and *The Dark Half*), comic editor Ben Horowitz, is menaced by a misunderstood villain that he created, forcing him to write a happier ending to his story. It's all part of a bigger plot though, and the fact that the Next Men themselves are virtually supporting characters never matters. (RH) 9

Lux and Alby 7 (Acme/Dark Horse; Millar & Fraser) This has to be one of the best comic series of the last year. A man who has had his Silver Surfer collection stolen, the protector of Nirvana, thinking plants and rocks, monsters, teleportation, squatting rights, Zen kissing, I Chi, dole offices, bicycles, sex — and large insect warriors holding spears. Who could ask for more? (RJJ) 9

Maxx 7 (Image; Kieth + Messner-Loebs + Sinclair) Besides containing a pointless (except, of course, in sales terms) Pitt crossover this issue confirms that Kieth is the one artist at Image with ideas — and what ideas! Just wait until you meet the talking piece of clay... (MS) 8

Pitt jumps on board and gets swept up by the surreal hallucinations of the Maxx. Julie visits the outback, Maxx and Pitt shrink, the Izes cause lots of trouble... what the hell is this comic doing being published by Image? Not a big gun or Spandex in sight. (RJJ) 7

Prime 9 <+> (Jones + Strasewski & Breyfogle) A hippy family so squeaky clean that they could advertise soap is targeted by the wicked Colonel Samuels — a well-conceived scoundrel whose sleazy plans will soon turn against him. (FPB) 6

Shi: The Way of the Warrior 1 (Crusade; Tucci + Gutierrez & Tucci + Mercadoocasio) A female samurai saves a woman cop from gang rape in a modern-day American crime drama. Promising. (PCP) 6

Sin City 4 (Dark Horse; Miller) Well, there's some twists to Dwight's tale and it's all very stylishly done, but Miller is still a bit too self-indulgent, too self-satisfied. The art's still striking, the story's as tough as ever, but perhaps (lest he get stuck in a rut) he should remember Stick's recent admonition to Matt Murdock: "Don't get cocky." (MS) 8

<+ -> Dwight is double-crossed, broken-hearted, filled with lead and hunted by the police. All because of Ava, a true *femme fatale* if ever there was one. Classic noir. (RH) 9

Spawn-Batman (Image; Miller & McFarlane) Some lovely one-liners and McFarlane's usual high standard are the only saving graces (such as they are) of this comic. Bats and Spawn seem to be going through the motions and the villainess was wholly one dimensional. All very contrived with low entertainment value and no exploration of the characters. I think a plot of some kind would've helped. Packaging this as perfect bound and charging $3.95 adds injury to insult. It's depressing that one has to fork out so much for a half-way decent comic. (CB) 6

Lots of macho teeth-clenching bravado, guts bursting, kidneys rupturing and green blood flying. Sumptuously illustrated but with no surprises, there are a few gags amid the mayhem, best being Spawn asking Batman: "You ever thought about getting help?" (RH) 6

After the uninteresting DC **Batman/Spawn: War Devil**, this creative team shows how it should be done. Frank Miller writes Batman's personality (near psychotic) better than anyone around and makes Spawn's character far more appealing than usual. Todd McFarlane's art seems inspired and Steve Oliff delivers his high standard of colouring. Over all this issue is entertaining, if only for the final splash page, when Bats graphically refuses Spawn's overtures of goodwill between them (which had me chuckling for quite a while). (MG) 9

Trencher, the X-Mas Bites 1994 Holiday Blowout 1 (Blackball; Giffen) Trencher makes its move from Image in style. Bringing in some of the bits that made Ambush Bug such a great comic, like internal memos and the return of the nine-panel grid in places, plus some funky colouring effects. Giffen becomes a Beavis/Butthead type creator and makes the stuff he was doing with Image forgettable. Self referential, self p*ss-taking, lots of fun. Not a great comic, but fun. (RJJ) 5

Underground 3 (Dark Horse; various) An anthology with a difference — stories about a gang based underground world created by Andrew Vachss, who has a text story in each issue. This month's highlight is *Leftovers* from Al Davison — a beautifully crafted story of the empowerment of society's "victims". It includes some of his best artwork to date. (KMBC) 6

SMALL PRESS

Judge Dredd the Megazine 49 <-> (Fleetway; various) The stories are of varying quality with the best being average **Megazine** fare. Highest recommendations go to Paul Peart and Dean Ormston for their art on Dredd and *Harke & Burr* respectively, and to Gordon Rennie for his first Dredd script. But in all, disappointing. (DP) 5

Judge Dredd the Megazine 50 <+> (Fleetway; various) Celebrating its half century with a price (and page) increase restoring it to its volume one level, this is the latest six-monthly promotional issue of the **Megazine**. From Wagner and Gibson's reunion on Dredd and the sadistic humour of *Creep* to the continuation of the Anderson saga, it is highly recommended, though not completely without flaw. (DP) 9

Judge Dredd the Poster Prog 2 <+ -> (Fleetway; Wagner & Esquerra) With script and art by Dredd's creators, the quality of this is undeniable. However, at a quid fifty for a poster and six pages of strip, this is probably best recommended to Dredd completists or those who are getting tired of their old wallpaper. (DP) 6

Tales from Sleaze Castle (Gratuitous Bunny Comix; McKinnon & Wiley) An extra-sized issue of Sleaze Castle proves to be its best issue yet. This music-themed issue looks at family life, pain, survival, suicide and Chris Morgan Comics. Highly entertaining and in my opinion the best comic in Britain. (RJJ) 10

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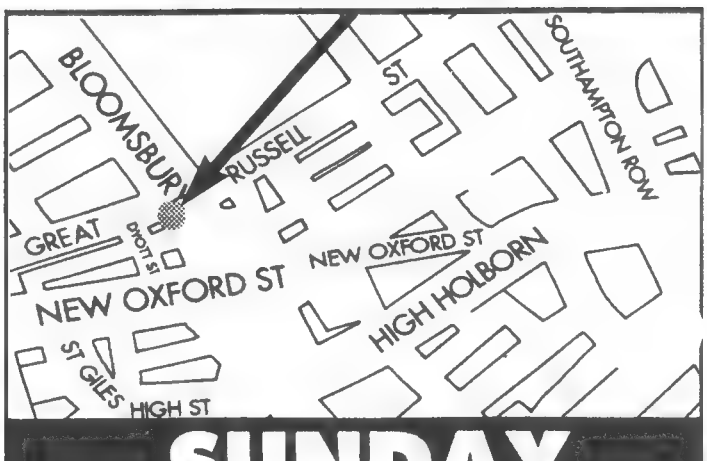

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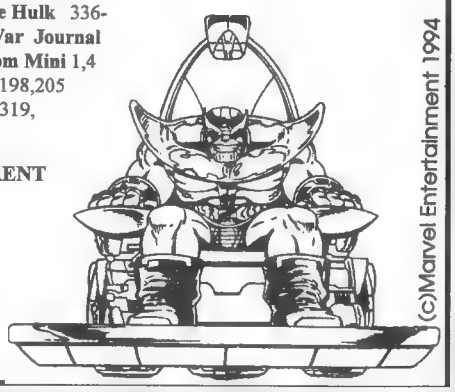

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w/s	= wholesale available
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Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945 but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics

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■ **Cosmic Comics,** PO Box 1771, London E17 9PW. (cat, wants, CoBRA)

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■ **Mega-City Comics,** 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 071 485 9320

■ **Planet X,** 5 London Road, Worcester WR5 2DJ (wants,CoBRA) Phone/fax: 0905 355055

■ **Red Hot Comics,** 42 Berridale Ave, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 3AE (CoBRA, s-wants) 041-637 0162 (10am-11pm)

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■ **Conquistador Comic Art Mail Order,** 158 Kent House Rd, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1JY (wants, CoBRA, s&n, s-cat, cc) 081-659 9714

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■ **Edge of Forever, The,** 82 b Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7LW. (wants, CoBRA, cc, s&n) 081-298 1363

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■ **First Choice Cards,** 11 Keith Avenue, Liverpool L4 5SL (cat, wants, CoBRA) 051 5214054

■ **Floppy Tongue,** 96 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP2 7QY (cat, w/s, wants, CoBRA) 0722 331107

■ **Next Millennium,,** 14 Newark Way, Hendon, London NW4 4JL (wants, dis) 081-203 0014

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English language translations and Japanese-style American comics.

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The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life titles (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar, etc)

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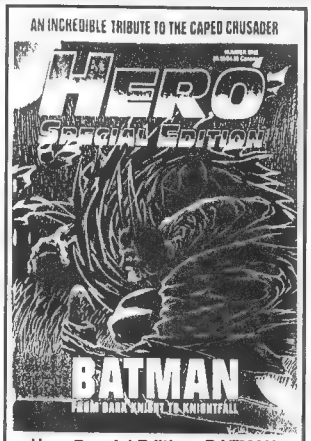

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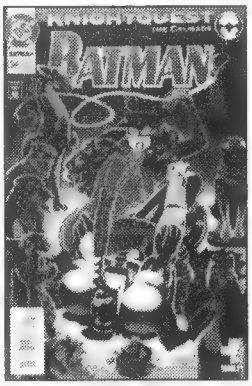

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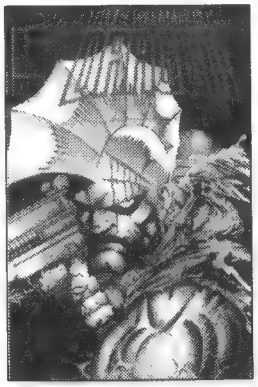

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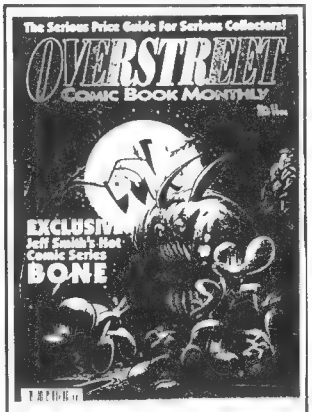

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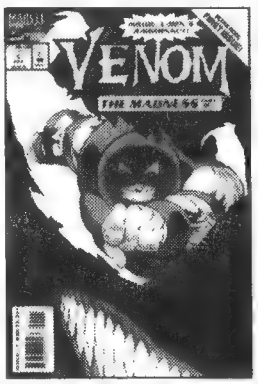

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LASTWORD: The DC Zero hour is coming: with Valor and the Legionnaires as key elements.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

The latest news, views and rumours in our ever-popular independent look at the hits, misses, prices, projects and people making comics news. Reported by the ever mysterious and controversial team of investigative diggers and delvers known to the world only as ITMA.

The end is nigh

OVER the last few months Marvel Comics has substantially cut back its once growing line of comics. The most recent cancellations being the entire Clive Barker *Razorline* imprint (although the remainder of the commissioned work will feature in a special one-shot called **Hyperkind Unleashed**.) and nearly half of the *Midnight Sons* family of titles.

Rumours are rife in the USA that at least five more titles are due to be cancelled over the next few months and one other title is moving to a different publisher.

Silver Sable and **Morbius** are both getting new creative teams and new directions to stave off impending termination. Both titles have steadily fallen in sales over the two years they have been on the stands.

Both **Nova** and **Night Thrasher** of the **New Warriors** family of titles are suffering, and although **Nova**'s future seems assured at present, it looks like Thrash's comic will bite the dust with issue 12.

Darkhawk's future is also in question. Issue 50 could well be the last outing for Marvel's darker knight.

The **Secret Defenders** is to undergo a creative team change and a change of direction. Rumour has it that Spider-Man and some of his heroic supporting cast may take over the mantle.

Rob Liefeld recently said that Image would be interested in publishing Sergio Aragones' **Groo**, if he ever left Marvel. With the news that Aragones is leaving because of the lack of promotion he gets for his title, Image indeed could become the new publisher of **Groo**. Aragones apparently stands to earn more from one year with them than he has during the book's 12 year history. Sounds like a good enough reason to us for wanting to move on, but can he draw like Rob Liefeld?

Other titles which are in danger of cancellation include Warren Ellis's **Hellstorm**, but good critical reaction to Ellis's new direction is expected to increase sales. A suggestion from a UK retailer was that Marvel should lose the CCA stamp and market the book as an Epic title to compete with Vertigo. Potentially a good idea, but Epic has lost any attraction to retailers after the abysmally received *Heavy Hitters* launch.

Sales of the Hasbro Toy licensed **Transformers: Generation 2** and **G.I. Joe** comics are also on the slide and because of the licensing agreement with Hasbro, Marvel has no editorial control and cannot change direction.

What is really needed for all of Marvel's ailing titles is "hot creative teams", but because sales are not good, there is no financial incentive for the artistes du jour to work on a floundering title. And even if they do, as Stephen Platt did on **Moon Knight**, it's not long aftre building a rep that they could be poached.

Excalibured

DESPITE rising sales now that the title is officially an X-book, **Excalibur** is to get a new writer, in fact several new writers.

Rumour has it that Bob Harras was not pleased with the new direction that was taking place in the title originally made popular by Chris Claremont and Alan Davis. Scott Lobdell has stepped in to write and plot a couple of issues and it seems that regular writer Richard Ashford has been relegated to scripting other people's plots.

After the current Nightcrawler storyline, which Ashford is scripting from a Lobdell plot, former **Suicide Squad** writer Kim Yale is to handle a couple of issues. Jeph (**Challengers of the Unknown**) Loeb is to write two issues and then **Hellstorm**'s Warren Ellis is to take over the writing from issue 82.

It is reported that fans are not happy with events that have recently taken place under Ashford's guidance. The new Captain Britain has not be well received and neither has his failure to address loose ends. Fans were also dismayed at Scott Lobdell's dispatching of Rachel/Phoenix, which seemed to have been done so that Jean Grey of the X-Men could take the name.

Excalibur is to become more closely linked to both **X-Factor** and **X-Force** over the coming months, but will also attempt to recapture some of the absurdity which originally made the book popular.

Bongo goes whacko

PRICES for Bongo Comics are going through the roof, with as much as £10 being asked for **Simpsons Comics** 1. But don't be dragged into paying extortionate prices for the new line of comics based on the hit animated TV series, they are officially distributed in this country,

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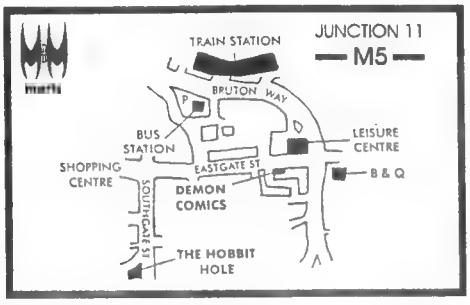

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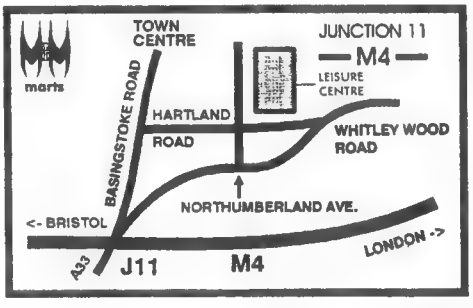

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SATURDAY 11TH JUNE
FUTURE DATES: (Saturdays) AUG 13 / NOV 5 / JAN 7

albeit as newsstand editions.

One fan recently stopped at Scratchwood service station on the M1 and saw copies of comics he'd seen for £3 at a mart earlier in the day on sale for £1.30. He quickly bought up every copy!

And back to you...

WHEN Bill Willingham created **The Elementals** in 1984, he could never have imagined what the next ten years would hold.

After eventually losing the rights on his creation to publishers Comico, he did work for DC before producing the wittily-titled **Ironwood** for Eros comics.

Comico has recently sold the rights to **Elementals** back to Willingham and he is to self-publish the title and will continue the story from when he left the book. All the stories which have taken place since then will be considered non-continuity and imaginary.

What's cooking

A NUMBER of comics' values that Movers has pointed out in recent months are still on the increase. **Avengers West Coast** 101 is selling well for £3 to £3.50 and many dealers think the price is still too cheap! One northern dealer has sold all ten of his copies for £7.50 each and is offering almost as much to buy more copies in.

Marvels 1 is now £10 and rising, with issues 2 and 3 almost as expensive. This is one of those few times Movers would say that the rise in price is justified, but copies of the series are available again from distributors, albeit in an allocated supply.

Wolverine 75 is finally beginning to sell and the current price of £7 for the direct sale version and £4 for the newsstand are being eaten up by fans. It seems that the issue where Wolverine becomes de-adamantiumised has rekindled interest in the popular X-Man, despite the fact that this was the title's highest ordered issue since 50 and *that* issue never really had speculators wringing their hands.

Daredevil: Man Without Fear issues 2 and 3 are both in the £5-£6 bracket and are still selling. Interest in this book is beginning to outstrip **Daredevil**: *Fall From Grace*.

Comic goes Splatt!

STEPHEN Platt issues of **Moon Knight** are no longer increasing in value and £7.50 is the best price received for either issue 55 or 56. A number of retailers have told us about a minor controversy that has arisen from Stephen Platt's stint on the now-cancelled title. Marvel announced that Platt would be the artist on issues 55-58 and 60, the double-sized final issue. Platt apparently only managed two issues, two covers and a splash poster page in the last issue.

Movers, like so many of the fans and retailers, was quick to spot Platt's potential. Orders for **Moon Knight**, known to be nearing cancellation, started to go up, but when they were bought sans Stephen Platt many were quickly returned to the shelves of comic shops both in Britain and America. Unfortunately for retailers, Marvel didn't offer returns on the book.

A sidebar to this is the fact that the issues of **Moon Knight** that don't feature entire art from Platt are hardly selling at all. This casts a shadow of doubt as to whether the speculator hyped **Prophet** 4 with its short supply Platt cover is getting more attention than it truly deserves.

Today's Special

WHO ARE the current crop of heir-apparents to Todd McFarlane, Jim Lee and Joe Quesada?

● Steve Skroce, who began his mainstream comics career working on the ill-fated *Razorline* title **Ectokid**, is one of the favourites to get the job as permanent artist on Marvel's mutant title, **Cable**. He has just finished a fill-in job on the title and X group editor Bob Harras is said to be "knocked out" by the young artist's distinctive style.

● Joel Thomas's first major job was with Malibu Comics, and he now is set to draw a new ongoing project for Axis Comics called **Nightvenger**. Thomas has a style not dissimilar to that of fan-favourites Marshal Rogers and Michael Golden when both artists worked with Terry Austin during the Seventies.

Thomas has also been courted by both Marvel and DC at recent comic conventions.

● Kyle Hotz is fast making a name for himself as artist on Malibu's **Night Man** and is rumoured to be following another (former) **Night Man** artist, Gene Ha, to Marvel. An X mini-series has been discussed.

● Joe Madureira has been knocking at the door of comics stardom for the last twelve months. His recent **Uncanny X-Men** fill-ins have led the artist to take over the art on the book permanently. Rumour has it that John Romita Jr. isn't returning to the title on a permanent basis. Joe, who has already done his token Image job, is keen to work on the title that got him interested in comics.

It is also rumoured that he is now pencilled-in as the artist on a forthcoming **Longshot** series, which until recently, seemed fated never to appear.

● Tom Tenney, the artist on **Force Works**, has been heralded as the new Barry Windsor-Smith (despite **Conan the Adventurer**'s artist, Rafe Kayanan trying desperately to emulate the original Conan artist). Tenney's work on the new **Force Works** title is being tipped to set back issue bins on fire and potentially push the price of the relatively under-ordered **Force Works** 1 upwards.

Tenney has worked for all the major publishers, but since he has teamed up with inker Rey Garcia, Tenney — who has always been regarded as just an able fill-in artist — is now getting fans' attention.

How the mighty fall

JOE QUESADA recently went into print in most of the American comics magazines explaining why he had left **Ninjak**.

There has been no indication as to what transpired during the phone conversation he had with Valiant, but it made Joe decide he could no longer work on the book. We've heard it could have something to do with the artist's inability to meet deadlines.

Valiant had an almost perfect record of shipping comics on time until Quesada came on board as "permanent" penciller on **Ninjak**. It soon became apparent that Joe was having trouble with the monthly schedule.

Quesada ends his published letter by saying that he has no projects planned, but industry insiders have revealed that he is currently talking to some people who are *extremely* good at poaching hot artists!

Surfing up the sales

MARVEL must be viewing the signing of Bart Sears as regular penciller on the **Silver Surfer** as a major coup.

Sears, who was reported as "not very happy" with the treatment he received from the Image boys, is also going into the world of self-publishing with his new Ominous Press imprint. But the **Silver Surfer** assignment appears to be the job which will pay his bills. Sears begins his stint with issue 93 and has signed on until at least issue 100.

Zero Hour zero?

IF **Zero Hour** is as successful as DC hope it will be, comic fans will be flocking to shops to buy up all the tie-ins and crossovers. If this is the case, we'll pre-warn you of a story which will set the scene for the big summer crossover.

There is a two-part Waverider story beginning in **Showcase** #7, which signals the beginning of the actual crossover.

There is also growing interest in the connected series **Valor**: *Dead on Arrival*. This storyline and recent issues of **Legionnaires** and **The Legion of Superheroes** chronicle the beginning of the end of the DC universe.

But the two issues of **Showcase '94** herald the beginning of the new DC universe.

If the price is right

A COPY of **Detective Comics** 27, was sold recently in New York for just under $100,000.

The book which belonged to the Edgar Church collection is believed to be the third best copy in existence and there are reportedly only 50 copies left!

The book was bought by Robert Rogovin of Four Color Comics retail store, who is now believed to have the third best comic book collection in the world!

Who's replacing who?

IT SEEMS that writer Tom DeFalco and artist Paul Ryan are to leave the **Fantastic Four** with the culmination of the *Nobody Gets Out Alive* storyline and epilogues. But the split has been greeted by fans of the title with cynical reaction.

Many of those who know of the impending changes commented that DeFalco has succeeded in killing off everything which made **The Fantastic Four** the *world's greatest comic book*.

Those dreaded reports of the book being replaced by an all-new team and called **Fantastic Force** (!?!), now seem to be true and although we don't yet know who will write the book, we do know that Mike **(Justice Machine)** Gustovich and Don **(Secret Defenders)** Hudson will be the artists. Nothing like a *hot* artistic team to boost the sales of a flagging title. So why didn't they get one?

As the changes to the **Fantastic Four** are happening around issue 393, expect by the time it reaches issue 399 that we'll see the original FF back in the book.

What about **Thunderstrike**? Well, it may be that the book needs no replacement team. If DeFalco *is* replaced as editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, chances are that this title will follow him out of the building.

We have also heard about some impending creative changes at DC. The hottest rumour circulating the fan network in the States at present is the impending cancellations of **Justice League International** and the **Legends of the Dark Knight** styled **Justice League Task Force** with rotating story arcs and creative teams.

Justice League of America is to get a top new creative team who will take the book in a completely new direction.

The new **Justice League** that will form as a result of **Zero Hour** crossover will apparently be more of a classic League line-up, including such former League members as Superman, Martian Manhunter, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman and Aquaman.

A number of named creators have been connected with the new Justice League project, among them George Perez, Chris Claremont and (our tip) Jerry Ordway.

Crazy Card

THE hologram cards from the **Saga of the Dark Knight** trading cards set are selling for enormous amounts of money, just weeks after coming on the market.

Dealers have reported to us that they have been selling the holograms for between £40 and £70, without the buyer so much as wincing at the strain on his wallet.

As soon as more of these special chase cards come onto the market the sooner the price will probably drop to a more respectable price. But most card dealers can't see the price falling below £40 for the foreseeable future.

But with the **Sandman** hologram still selling for very high prices, there might still be some speculative mileage left in Batman and his trading cards.

There is also a small controversy raging over the cases of **Saga of the Dark Knight**.

The cases were supposed to have three holograms per case (a case contains 20 boxes), but one dealer opened an entire case and didn't find one hologram and another dealer found his first and only hologram in the 17th box that he had opened.

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Comics International Letters, 8 Trinity Road, London N2 8JJ

Following an extended doom and gloom overview of our domestic comics industry (what do you want, the facts or hyperbole?), it's good to report some good news. It wasn't really dead, merely comatose.

*Fleetway is more confident than we gave them credit for last month. The hold on **2000AD** group commissions is because of a glut of inventory from way back now being absorbed, not a lack of faith from the parent company. Marvel UK is hinting about its new releases for the newsstands later this year and mystery surrounds the sudden return of the Dark Horse International titles (albeit only three of them and probably all reprint). But whoever their publisher is, provided there are no sudden **Toxic-Revolver-Blast-Max Overload** style extravaganzas, a reprint line can at least produce an encouraging early days balance sheet with low-risk profits which can encourage an expansion. And, of course, **Deadline**, Knockabout and Mindbenders are still out there, as is the bustling small press faction.*

*During the month's absence of **Manga Mania**, in the wake of the Tundra-Atomeka-Blackball closure and the Marvel UK retrenchment, it seems everybody decided to take up the challenge and move into comics publishing. We've had reports of four new publishers (with only two being manga-anime related).*

But how many will make it to the newsstands or how many survive their first year is another matter though. Now it's the major wholesalers we need to convince. ...Dez Skinn/Editor

Sergio Perciballi,
3 Eastfield Grove, Peterborough

THERE'S an irritating line in the introductory paragraphs of the *Reviews* column. "We make no attempt to compare **Cerebus** to **Spider-Man**, but review each within the context of its own genre."

What genre is **Cerebus** in then, exactly? Is it in the black and white independent genre? Is it in the superhero parody genre? Is it in the literary highbrow genre? Or is it in the hole of its own making?

Why *not* compare **Cerebus** and **Spider-Man**? I'll try.

Spider-Man sells over 400,000 copies, **Cerebus** does not. (**Cerebus** sells about 20,000.)

Cerebus is over-rated, **Spider-Man** is under-rated.

Cerebus can have some of the subtlest event-telling, **Spider-Man** can be as dynamic as hell.

Cerebus can be overblown, arty farty and (too) literary, **Spider-Man** is solid superhero storytelling plus angst.

Cerebus can have some really intelligent zombies (according to the letters pages), where **Spider-Man's** letters are less interesting but equally sycophantic.

Cerebus is self-published, **Spider-Man** isn't.

Cerebus is a hermaphrodite, **Spider-Man** is arachnid-like.

Digressing, I think to get a '10', a comic should be perfect. A perfect comic book is unrealistic — a fantasy.

Chris Harper, 25 Napier Drive, Tipton, West Midlands

A collection for the *Jack Kirby Educational Fund* has been arranged via the **Jack Kirby Quarterly**, with Roz Kirby's blessing. This was set up before I was aware of the existence of any other collections, so I must state plainly that this *isn't* a competition!

It matters not which collection you donate to; it all goes to the same worthy cause.

A few misunderstandings about the nature of the fund are worth clearing up. It was initiated when Jack passed away, in his name — Roz said, "It's the temple we belong to; they get a lot of families coming in from different countries, and they can't afford their children's education. So, this fund will help with books, paying their tuition, things like that. Jack would've loved that, because he always loved young people.

"When Jack passed away I said, instead of people sending flowers and anything to me, I'd rather they send it there."

A lot of people assumed that this money will go to American children only; this is, of course, incorrect. A lot of families that will benefit from this money come from places such as Russia. It's also worth pointing out that Roz herself has control over the distribution of the funds — thus ensuring that the money is used in a manner that Jack would have approved of.

If anyone would like to make a donation via JKQ, send your money to the address above, before July 10th 1994. Please note that cheques must be payable to C. Harper — the cash will be converted to US funds, and sent in one lump sum, shortly after the deadline expires.

The final amount will be sent directly to Roz Kirby, in order to verify its safe arrival, along with a list of all donators names and addresses (bar anyone who wishes to remain anonymous).

If you'd rather send your donation directly to the fund itself — US funds only — the address is: The Jack Kirby Educational Fund, Temple Etz Chaim, 1080 Janns Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, USA.

Paul Aaman, 6 Keswick Drive, Northampton

I'VE read recently "The king is dead, long live the king" referring to Jack Kirby and his successor. But this raises the question of who *is* now the king of comics?

My money would be on none other than Stan Lee. After all, who is there to compete with him? Steve Ditko, Will Eisner, Frank Miller or Todd McFarlane? I hardly think so.

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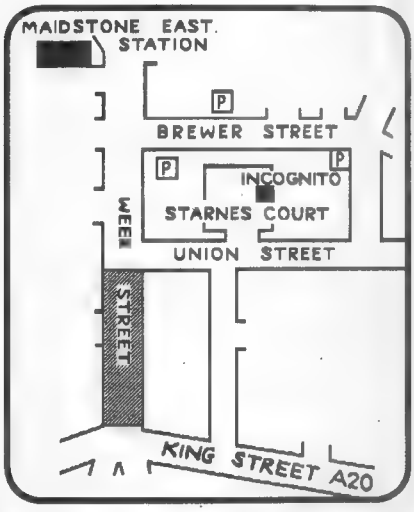

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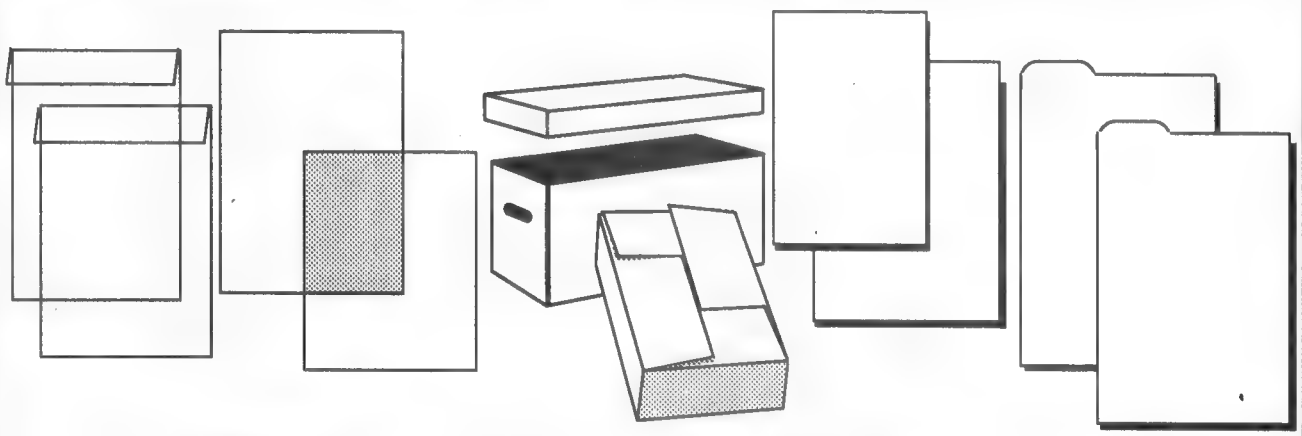

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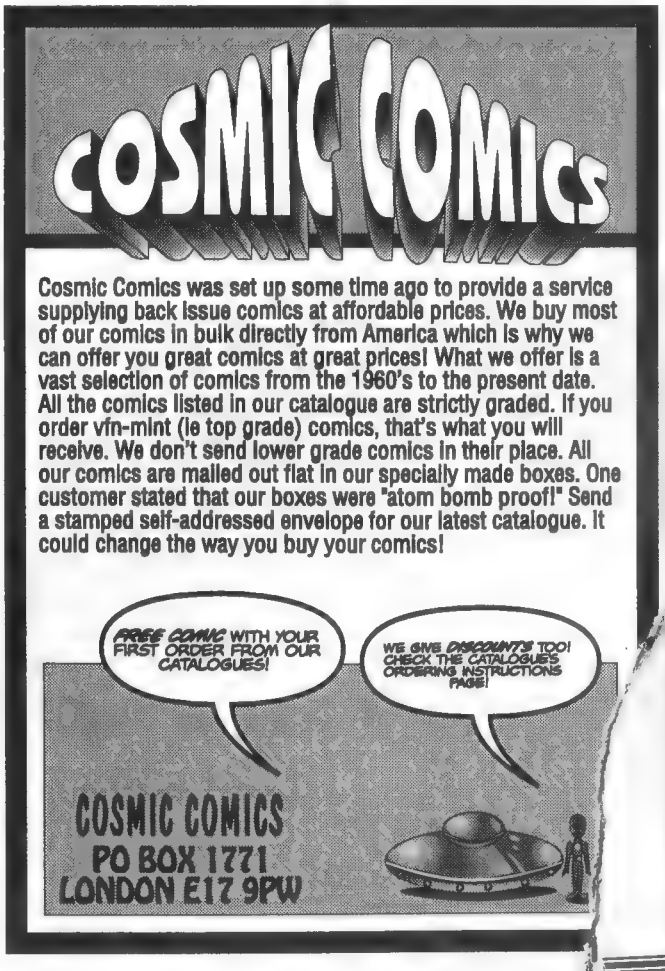
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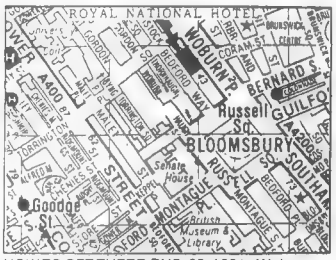

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